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**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
MEETING OF THE CHAMBER OF
PRINCES (NARENDRA MANDAL)**

Held at New Delhi on the 17th and 18th March 1941.

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AGENDA

CHAMBER OF PRINCES.

March, 1941.

1. The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar.—

“The Chamber of Princes records its heartfelt sorrow on the demise of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja of Mysore, the Maharaja of Kolhapur, the Maharao of Kotah, the Maharaja of Bijawar, and of the late Thakor Saheb of Rajkot, the late Thakor Sahebs of Limbdi and the late Chief of Nandgaon together with its sense of loss thereby sustained by the entire Order of the Princes and offers its sincere sympathies and condolences to the bereaved families.”

Seconder.—His Highness the Maharawal of Dungarpur.

Supporters.—His Highness the Maharaja of Dewas (Senior).

His Highness the Raja of Sangli.

The Raja of Dhenkanal.

2. The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:—

“The Chamber of Princes offers its heartiest congratulations to Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Mysore, the Maharao of Kotah, and to the Thakor Saheb of Rajkot and the Thakor Saheb of Limbdi, on their accession to the *Gaddi*, and to Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Dhar and the Maharaja of Nabha on their investiture with ruling powers and wishes them a long and prosperous life.”

Seconder.—His Highness the Raja of Sangli.

3. The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:—

“The Chamber of Princes extends a cordial welcome to the Rulers recently admitted as members of the Chamber in their own right and confidently hopes that by continuing to take an active and constructive interest in the affairs of this Chamber and the ordered progress of their respective States, these members will prove a source of added strength to the Chamber of Princes.”

Seconder.—His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala.

Supporters.—His Highness the Raja of Mandi.

His Highness the Maharaja of Dewas (Senior).

Note.—After the Resolution is passed the following Rulers will thank on behalf of the newly admitted Members:—

The Raja of Seraikela.
 The Raja of Bhor.
 The Raja of Jamkhandi.
 The Raja of Miraj (Senior).
 The Raja of Korea.

4. The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanager:—

“This Chamber recommends (a) that in view of the recent admission of 26 new members to the Chamber of Princes in their own right the number of Representative Members may be reduced from 12 to 10 of whom four shall be elected by the Rulers of States specified in Part I of the Appendix to Regulation IV; two by the Rulers of States specified in Part II of the said Appendix; two by the Rulers of States specified in Part III of the said Appendix; one by the Rulers of States specified in Part IV of the said Appendix; and one by the Rulers of States in Part V of the said Appendix; and (b) that the following States may be included in Part I of the Appendix to Regulation IV:—

Shahpura, Jambughoda, Malpur, Mansa, Mohanpur, Khirasra and Kurandwad (Junior).”

Seconder.—His Highness the Raja of Mandi.

5. The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanager:—

“The Chamber of Princes records its deep sense of abhorrence of the callous Nazi violation of all international law and morality culminating in the shameless bombing of Buckingham Palace. The Chamber offers its devout gratefulness to Providence for His protection of Their Majesties the King-Emperor and the Queen, and desires that this devoted expression of the personal attachment of the Indian Princes to Their Majesties, and of the deep concern of the Princes for their welfare may be placed before Their Majesties.”

Seconder.—His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala.

Supporters.—His Highness the Nawab of Bahawalpur.

His Highness the Nawab of Rampur.

His Highness the Raja of Sangli.

6. The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanager:—

“The Chamber of Princes records its heartiest gratification at the recent brilliant victories of the Imperial and Allied Forces in Africa and Albania and at the inspiring stand of England

against the brutal Nazi air-raids and is proud to learn that the Indian troops have played such a magnificent part in these achievements. The Chamber requests His Excellency the Crown Representative to convey to His Majesty's Government and particularly to that dauntless soldier-Statesman, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the sincerest congratulations of the Princes of India on these glorious victories which are regarded as a promising augury of final victory, for the eventual achievement of which the Indian Princes do reiterate their determination to continue to put forth their best efforts."

Seconder.—His Highness the Manaraja of Patiala.

Supporters.—His Highness the Nawab of Bahawalpur.

His Highness the Maharawal of Dungarpur.

His Highness the Maharaja of Dewas (Junior).

His Highness the Raja of Mandi.

7. The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawānagar:—

"The Chamber of Princes recommends to His Excellency the Crown Representative that the following amendments may be made in the First Regulations set out in the Appendix to the Constitution of this Chamber:—

1. In sub-clause (iii) of Regulation 1 in Part II of the said Regulations the words "The Maritime States of" may be inserted at the beginning of the said clause.
2. In sub-clause (iii) of Regulation 1 in Part V of the said Regulations the words "The Maritime States of" may be inserted at the beginning of the said clause.
3. The following proviso may be added at the end of Regulation 4 in Part II of the said Regulations, namely,—

"Provided that any vacancy occurring on the Standing Committee will be filled by the Rulers concerned in accordance with the Regulations for ordinary elections.".

4. The following additional sub-clause may be inserted at the end of Regulation 1 in Part V of the said Regulations as sub-clause (2), namely,—

"A member appointed on the Committee of Ministers by a certain Ruler will be liable to be replaced by another member at the discretion of the Ruler concerned, and a member representing a group of States will be liable to be replaced if the majority of the Rulers of the group concerned or the Ruler who gave consent to the member concerned being originally included in the panel, give intimation of the desired change in writing to the Chancellor. In the latter case, the seat vacated shall be filled in accordance with the Regulations by the same Group which elected the member vacating the seat."

5. In sub-clause (a) Regulation 2 in Part V of the said Regulations—
- (i) the following words may be inserted between the words 'suggest' and 'names', namely,—
“to the Secretary of the Chamber of Princes”;
 - (ii) the following words may be added at the end of this sub-clause namely,—
“The list of the names proposed shall be forwarded within a week of the specified date to the Chancellor.”
 - (iii) the following Note may be added at the end of this sub-clause as amended namely,—
“In the case of a State under administration on account of minority or for any other reason the consent of the Government of the State concerned shall be treated as the consent of the Ruler for the purposes of this sub-clause but it shall be subject to revocation by the Ruler concerned on the termination of such administration.”
6. The following proviso may be added at the end of Regulation 5 in Part V of the said Regulations, namely,—
“Provided that any vacancy occurring during the normal term of office of the Committee will be filled in accordance with the Regulations for ordinary elections by the same group which elected the member vacating the seat.”
7. For sub-clause (xi) of Regulation 1 in Parts II and V of the said Regulations, the following may be substituted, namely,—
“(xi) The remaining Eastern States with Manipur and Sikkim shall form a separate constituency returning three members.”
8. In Rule 2 of the Rules set out in Appendix A to the said Regulations the following words may be deleted, namely,—
“which shall also be signed and seconded by another member of the Princes’ Standing Committee.”
9. In Rule 1 of the Rules set out in Appendix B to the said Regulations the following words may be inserted between the words ‘names’, and ‘at’ namely,—
“to the Secretary of the Chamber”,
and the following sentence added at the end of this Rule, namely,—
“The list of the names proposed shall be forwarded within a week of the specified date to the Chancellor”.
Seconder.—The Raja of Bhor.
8. The following Resolution will be moved by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar:—
“This Chamber recommends to His Excellency the Crown Representative that in order to further enhance the value of

the war effort of the States and of India as a whole, necessary action may be taken with the least possible delay with a view to associate the representatives of the States with the war activities at the Centre, through reviving the proposal for the establishment of the War Advisory Council with representatives of the States and of the Provincial Governments or through some other suitable alternative to be evolved in consultation with the States."

Seconder.—His Highness the Nawab of Rampur.

Supporter.—His Highness the Maharaja of Dewas (Junior).

9. To receive a statement from His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar reviewing the work performed by the Chamber of Princes during the last year.

10. Vote of Thanks to His Highness the Chancellor.

Mover.—His Highness the Nawab of Rampur.

Seconder.—His Highness the Maharaja of Dewas (Junior).

Supporters.—His Highness the Raja of Mandi.

His Highness the Raja of Sangli.

WORK-CARD.

CHAMBER OF PRINCES (NARENDRA MANDAL)

March 1941.

Monday, the 17th March 1941.

His Excellency the Crown Representative will on arrival greet the Members and Representative Members who will be presented individually by His Highness the Chancellor.

2. His Excellency the Crown Representative will take his seat in the Chamber.

3. His Highness the Chancellor will make a speech inviting His Excellency the Crown Representative to unveil the busts of Their late Highnesses of Gwalior, Jamnagar and Patiala.

4. His Excellency will make a few remarks in reply and then unveil the busts, simultaneously by pressing a button which will be accessible without leaving his seat.

5. His Excellency the Crown Representative will deliver an address.

6. Resolution of condolence by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar on the demise of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja of Mysore, the Maharaja of Kolhapur, the Maharao of Kotah, the Maharaja of Bijawar, and of the late Thakor Saheb of Rajkot, the late Thakor Sahebs of Limbdi and the late Chief of Nandgaon. (Agendum No. 1).

7. Resolution of welcome by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar to Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Mysore, the Maharao of Kotah, the Maharaja of Dhar and the Maharaja of Nabha, and to the Thakor Saheb of Rajkot, the Thakor Saheb of Limbdi and the Chief of Nandgaon. (Agendum No. 2).

8. Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawangar welcoming the additional members recently admitted to the Chamber of Princes. (Agendum No. 3).

9. Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawangar in regard to the amendments to the Regulations for the appointment of Representative Members. (Agendum No. 4).

10. Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawangar on the shameless Nazi bombing of Buckingham Palace, and the great concern of the Indian Princes for the welfare of, and attachment to the persons of, Their Majesties. (Agendum No. 5).

Tuesday, the 18th March 1941.

1. Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar on the War with particular reference to the inspiring stand of England against the brutal Nazi air raids, the heroic victories in the Middle East and Albania and the determination of the Indian Princes to continue their best efforts for the successful prosecution of the War. (Agendum No. 6).

2. Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar on the proposed amendments to the Reorganisation Scheme of the Chamber of Princes. (Agendum No. 7).
3. Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar regarding association of the States with War activities at the Centre, particularly in the Sphere of Defence, Industries and Supply. (Agendum No. 8).
4. To receive a statement from His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar reviewing the work performed by the Chamber of Princes during the last year. (Agendum No. 9).
5. Vote of thanks to His Highness the Chancellor. (Agendum No. 10).
6. Reply of the Members and Representative Members to His Excellency the Crown Representative's address.
7. His Excellency the Crown Representative will then conclude the proceedings.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST DAY.

17th March 1941.

The Chamber assembled at the Princes' Chamber, Council House at 10-30 A.M., on Monday, the 17th March, 1941. His Excellency the Crown Representative presided.

The following Ruling Princes and Chiefs were present:

Central India States.

His Highness the Maharaja of Datia.	The Raja of Nagod.
His Highness the Maharaja of Dewas (Senior Branch).	The Raja of Sarila.
His Highness the Maharaja of Dewas (Junior Branch).	

Deccan States.

The Raja of Bhor.	The Raja of Miraj (Sr.)
The Raja of Jankhandi.	His Highness the Raja of Sangli.
The Raja of Jath.	

Eastern States.

His Highness the Maharaja of Cooch Behar.	The Raja of Korea.
The Raja of Dhenkanal.	The Maharaja of Patna.
The Maharaja of Kalahandi.	The Raja of Raigarh.
The Raja of Keonjhar.	The Raja of Seraikela.
The Raja of Khairagarh.	The Maharaja of Sonepur.

Gujarat States

The Raja of Jawhar.

Gwalior Agency

His Highness the Nawab of Rampur.

Punjab States

His Highness the Nawab of Bahawalpur.	His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala.
His Highness the Raja of Faridkot.	His Highness the Maharaja of Sirmur.
The Raja of Jubbal.	His Highness the Raja of Suket.
His Highness the Raja of Mandi.	His Highness the Maharaja of Tehri (Garhwal).
His Highness the Maharaja of Nabha.	

Rajputana States

His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar.	His Highness the Maharewal of Dungarpur.
His Highness the Maharaja of Bharatpur.	His Highness the Maharao Raja of Bundi.

Western India States

His Highness the Maharaja of Morvi.	His Highness the Maharaja Rana Saheb of Porbandar.
His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Navanagar.	His Highness the Maharana Raj Saheb of Wankaner.
The Thakor Saheb of Palitana	

His Highness the Chancellor:—Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: I rise to request Your Excellency, on behalf of the Members and Representative Members of this Chamber, to unveil the marble busts of Their Highnesses the late Maharajas of Gwalior, Patiala and Nawanaagar, three of the most distinguished leaders of this Chamber.

2. This simple ceremony, as Your Excellency will appreciate, is unique in the annals of the Chamber of Princes. It is an expression of the spontaneous and the unanimous wish of the Members and Representative Members of this Chamber, to pay a fitting homage to the cherished memory of those illustrious founders of the Chamber of Princes, who are no more with us, and who gave ungrudgingly of their best throughout their association with the Chamber to the furtherance of our common cause.

3. Your Excellency, the departed leaders whose eminent services we are now commemorating, have made history and immortalised themselves in and outside this Chamber. They belonged to that limited galaxy of rulers who were literally the founders of this Chamber. With their clear farsight, they readily appreciated that the concept of the Chamber of Princes was a timely step forward in recognition of the Political status of the Princes. They foresaw that the Chamber offered constructive machinery for joint collaboration amongst the princes as a mark of confidence in them in the post-war revaluations, for the old policy of isolation. They realised that the Chamber could render real service in ensuring better understanding between the representatives of the Crown and the Princes through a friendly approach and appreciation of each others viewpoints. They visualised through the growth of the Chamber, the promise of a healthy structure for joint deliberations between British India and Indian India, in matters of common concern. As such, they lent their great weight in the setting up of the Chamber of Princes and played a heroic part in its organisation and constitution.

4. Your Excellency, this Chamber owes "a debt immense of endless gratitude" to His late Highness Maharaja Shri Madhavraoji Scindia of Gwalior. He lent his powerful support to this Chamber, in its infancy, when its potentialities were still doubted. At that critical period of its history, His late Highness literally chaperoned this Chamber. Not a single Session did he miss since its inauguration, nor any of its important committees. Moreover, the proceedings of that period bear abundant testimony to the fact that he gave of his best in making the Chamber a live organ, and applied his great gifts towards the smoothing of many difficulties and evolving of satisfactory agreements on delicate questions of difference of opinion. In 1920, when the old Scheme of Imperial Service Troops was being revised, His late Highness presided over the Committee which was entrusted with this important task, and the tact, industry and patriotism with which he performed his difficult task will shine forth indelibly in the proceedings of that Committee. Both at the formal and the informal meetings of the Chamber, His late Highness moved some of the most important resolutions, and gave freely his farsighted advice and assistance. Every year of his association with this Chamber enhanced the great respect and esteem in which he was held by his brother Princes; and by his example he demonstrated that the biggest of our brother Princes have nothing to lose and perhaps something to add to their great lustre, through their association with this Chamber.

5. Your Excellency, the work of His late Highness Shri Madhavraoji Scindia was not limited to this Chamber. He was a pillar of the Empire

in the best sense of the term, a tower of strength to his brother Princes, a keen soldier and sportsman, and a Ruler who lived for his people and his State, his country and the Empire. His monumental work was truly described by the then Resident at Gwalior in delivering the Kharita in September 1925 when he stated that "there is not a department, there is not a village in the whole State to whose welfare His Highness did not contribute something and where his personality was not felt. His great qualities were many careful thinking out of the problems before him to definite and practical solutions, a clear vision of the end to be attained, and the means to attain it, a resolute will that refused to be daunted by any obstacle, and that never knew defeat but was ready to renew every battle if there was any hope of success, and above all, the good conscience arising from the knowledge that he was doing his best as far as in him lay to serve his State, his people and his God."

6. His late Highness Maharaja Shri Bhupindra Singhji of Patiala was still recently an ornament of this Chamber. He was our popular Chancellor when he left us over three years ago. He was, as Your Excellency knows, a stalwart personality not only of this Chamber but of modern India, whose prowess in sport and in the sphere of politics was admired by his admirers in three great Continents. He was a large-hearted Prince, whose great generosity will not be forgotten. and whose irresistible charm commanded affection of all who came in contact with him.

7. The great contributions of His late Highness Maharaja Shri Bhupindra Singhji towards the making of this Chamber will live in history. Ever since the inception of the Chamber, there was not an important Committee in which he was not included, there was no Standing Committee which he did not adorn. Moreover, this Chamber gave repeated proof of its confidence in him, by selecting him to hold the exalted position of its Chancellor for ten years right up to the time when the cruel hand of death separated him from us. Throughout, he discharged his duties with indomitable courage and resourcefulness. It was during his Chancellorship that the Butler Committee was appointed and the first Round Table Conference met. We all know of the tact, farsight and the patriotism with which he led the delicate negotiations during those eventful years. He earned and enjoyed to an exceptional degree the confidence of the Rulers of big and the small States, and he exerted his great influence in bringing them together. He recognised that big States were big so long as there were smaller States, and that the best security for the Rulers of smaller States lay in their standing together in unity and good administration by the side of their senior compeers.

8. Your Excellency, His late Highness Maharaja Jam Shri Ranjit-singhji of Nawanagar, my distinguished father, was also one of the founder-members of this Chamber, a member of the Standing Committee from its inception and its elected Chancellor in the year 1932-33. Your Excellency, it is impossible for me to restrain my emotions when I refer to my illustrious and revered father, and no words from me can express adequately what the people of Nawanagar and I owe to his gracious reign and inspiring example. In referring to his blessed memory, I would content myself by quoting the reference made after his sad demise by His late Highness the Maharaja Sahib of Patiala who was then Chancellor

He stated that "indeed those of us who were privileged to know His late Highness (Jam Maharaj) intimately realised that the cause of Indian India was with him much more than a political issue; it was a religion with him and he genuinely believed that the greatness of India and the Empire depended on the preservation of the Princes and their States and the traditions of chivalry, loyalty and paternal government for which they stand. In advocating the cause of the Princes and devoting his very life to advance their interests, he believed he was serving his country and the King-Emperor and all who knew him will agree that it was this supreme faith which sustained him in all his difficulties and troubles."

9. Your Excellency, it is almost pathetic to feel that no more do we see in our midst, in this Chamber, the great and unique figures of these departed leaders, but their work shall endure and their marble busts overlooking the scene of their past activities would inspire the coming generation of Princes with the glorious memories of their great achievements.

10. Before I conclude, I wish to offer my genuine appreciation to Messrs. Mhatre's Art Studio, Sculptors of Bombay, who constructed these marble busts, and to the Architect of the Government of India Mr. H. A. N. Medd who designed the pedestals and the niches in the Chamber Hall.

11. Your Excellency, I have now to request you to be pleased to unveil the marble busts of our revered and departed leaders, Their late Highnesses the Maharajas of Gwalior, Patiala and Nawanagar.

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE CROWN REPRESENTATIVES' SPEECH
AT THE UNVEILING CEREMONY OF THE BUSTS OF THEIR
LATE HIGHNESSES OF GWALIOR, PATIALA AND NAWA-
NAGAR IN THE CHAMBER OF PRINCES HALL, ON THE 17TH
OF MARCH 1941.**

YOUR HIGHNESSES,—

I am grateful to His Highness the Chancellor and the Members and Representative Members of this Chamber for inviting me to preside over today's ceremony and unveil the busts of Their late Highnesses the Maharajas of Gwalior, Nawanagar and Patiala. Your Chancellor has paid a moving tribute to the memory of these three Princes, all of whom had, by varying and outstanding qualities and achievements, become familiar and popular figures in the India of their day. Nor were their fame and reputation confined to this country. The name of His late Highness of Nawanagar is still a household word in England by reason of his unique proficiency in England's national game. In that, as well as in other more serious spheres of public life, the late Maharaja of Patiala, too, won great distinction, while His Highness Maharaja Madho Rao Scindia's personality was such as to inspire confidence and affection in all with whom he came in contact—from the lowliest of his subjects to the King-Emperor himself. But we are today more concerned with the services they rendered to this Chamber with which all of them were so closely associated from those earliest days when, what was then known as the "Conference of Ruling Princes and Chiefs" first began to meet here in Delhi.

Of that aspect of their careers His Highness the Chancellor has spoken in sincere and eloquent terms, and I gladly associate myself with all that he has said. In speaking of the late Maharaja Jam Saheb, His Highness, words were very naturally charged with family affection, and the thought will no doubt have occurred to many of us, that nothing would have afforded greater pride and pleasure to His late Highness than to have known that the great office of Chancellor of this unique Assembly, which he himself had held with such industry and distinction, would one day be so worthily filled by his successor on the gaddi of Nawanagar.

It will not be a conventional compliment or an undue straining of language if I say that this ceremony for which we have assembled today is, in respect of all the three Princes whose memory it is designed to perpetuate in this place, permeated by a certain filial sentiment, inasmuch as all of them had just claims to be described as fathers of the Chamber of Princes, for they had played no inconsiderable part in guiding the Chamber through its early days. For the vision which enabled them, as His Highness has reminded us, to appreciate its possibilities in the future, and to a great extent to carry them into actual effect, we may well be thankful, and it is for Your Highnesses of the present generation to see to it that the ideals and objects for which the Chamber was founded, and for which those whom we commemorate strove so loyally and well, are resolutely pursued, in the best interests of your Order as well as of India as a whole.

I trust that the marble effigies, which I am privileged now to unveil, will keep alive, for many generations to come, the great reputations which are so fresh in the memories of all of us present here today.

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE CROWN REPRESENTATIVE
AT THE OPENING OF THE MEETING OF THE CHAMBER OF
PRINCES ON MONDAY, 17TH MARCH 1941.**

YOUR HIGHNESSES,—

It is a great pleasure to me to meet you again this year and to preside over your deliberations, and I extend a very cordial welcome to you all.

I note with great satisfaction that the numbers attending this session of the Chamber are considerably higher than usual. That is, I have no doubt, the result partly of the natural desire of Your Highnesses to participate in discussions at the Imperial Capital during times so critical as those through which we are passing; partly of the recent revision of the constitution of the Chamber, which has resulted in the addition of no fewer than 26 Rulers to those who enjoy the right of full membership. I would only say that it is a source of sincere gratification to me that of those new members so many should have been able to be present with us today, and in taking the opportunity of welcoming them to the Chamber I would express the hope that this reinforcement will prove a real source of fresh strength and vitality.

It is a great satisfaction to me to know that the hopes which I voiced when I addressed Your Highnesses last year in regard to the termination of the prolonged conditions of famine in Rajputana and Kathiawar have, thanks to a bounteous monsoon, been amply fulfilled, and that the anxieties which weighed upon so many of Your Highnesses and on your people as the result of the famine conditions which prevailed for so long have been alleviated in so marked a degree.

Since the last meeting of the Chamber death has taken a heavy toll, and the State of Limbdi in particular has suffered the loss of two of its Rulers. Those whose loss we mourn today include many close friends of all of us, and many who were outstanding figures in the Princely Order. We mourn the genial figure of His Highness the Maharaja of Kolhapur. In the person of the late Maharao of Kotah we have lost a Prince whose innate kindness and solicitude for his subjects were well known. His late Highness the Maharaja of Mysore was a personality whose accomplishments would have won distinction in any walk of life. As a Ruler, the manner in which he discharged the responsibilities of his great position, his close interest in the welfare of his subjects, his zeal for progress, for the advancement of justice, for the development of a higher sense of civic duty, and the simplicity of his mode of life, all of them impressed deeply those of us who had the privilege of his friendship and who have been able to see him in his own State, and the example which he set enhanced the prestige of the Princely Order not only in this country but far beyond its borders.

I am confident that it will be the wish of Your Highnesses to offer to the relatives of those Rulers who are no longer with us, and to those who have succeeded to the responsibilities laid down by them, our sincere sympathy in their bereavement and our congratulations and good wishes in regard to the opportunities that lie before them.

When I last addressed Your Highnesses I remarked that up to that time no substantial call had been made on the man-power of India, but I added that, were conditions to alter, and were the war to take a different

course, the offers of support of every kind so readily made by the Princes of India, and so deeply appreciated, would be of the greatest value. Twelve months have indeed seen a vast alteration in the position, and the value of the co-operation of the States, and of the generous support which they have given in men, money and material has been proved in the most ample and signal way. The memorable words of appreciation spoken by His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor in the Message to India which I had the honour to make public two days ago will be fresh in the memory of all of us. Addressed as that Message was alike to the Princes and the people of India, it brings out in a striking manner the unity of India's war effort, the great assistance she has given at a time of such critical importance to India and to the world, and the significance of the contribution made by the Princely Order and by British India alike. The contributions of the Indian States, under the inspiring leadership of Your Highnesses who are here today, and of other members of the Princely Order, have indeed been great. Their forces have been expanded so that they could go forth to wherever the need was the greatest. By precept and by example they have encouraged their countrymen. They have been unstinting in their financial support, and their emblems are emblazoned today on countless weapons of war and on countless gifts of every kind designed to repair the injuries of war. The value of those generous contributions is enhanced by their spontaneity. If there is any complaint from Your Highnesses, I know only too well from my own conversations with so many members of the Princely Order that it is that the opportunities of service, and particularly of personal service in face of the enemy, have fallen short of your own ardent desires.

It is but natural, given the extent and the importance of the co-operation which the Indian States have given in the progress of the war, that you should have been concerned to play the utmost possible part in the various organizations which have been established to co-ordinate and to develop our war effort, and I have been at pains not only to keep in contact with His Highness the Chancellor and other leading Princes on this matter, but to do all in my power to keep the Indian States in close touch with current events of importance. The technical advisers from the Indian States rendered valuable service to India's representatives on that most important body the Eastern Group Conference. The Indian States, in common with British India, will be represented on the Supply Council of the Eastern Group which has now been established, and on which the Representative of India sits side by side with the representatives of the Dominions of Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, and of His Majesty's Government, and in touch with the Colonial Governments throughout the area. I would only observe in that connection that I am fully alive to the importance of ensuring that India's Representative on that Council, and my Supply Department, shall be kept informed of the resources of the States, of their anxiety to assist by every means in their power, and of the contributions which they may be in a position to make towards the satisfaction of our ever-expanding needs. As Your Highnesses are no doubt aware the States have obtained representation on the Export Advisory Committee, the Petrol Rationing Conference, the six local Advisory War Supply Committees, and many other organizations established by the Central Government, and it is my sincere hope that the steps which have been taken to bring about the closest co-operation between the Indian States and British India will be of mutual benefit, and will serve the best and truest interest of India as a whole.

His Majesty in his Gracious Message touched on the military assistance given to the Empire's cause by the Princely Order and by the Indian States. I know that the many and varied problems which have inevitably arisen, and which will continue to arise, from the close association of the Indian States Forces with His Majesty's Forces will be fully present to the minds of Your Highnesses. I know, too, how fully you realise the relation of the test of active service to the present system. You will readily appreciate that in uniformity lies simplicity and efficiency. Much has already been done, in the process of assimilation, to diminish the differences that existed between types and conditions of military service in the Indian Army and in the States, and it is my confident hope and my belief that Your Highnesses will approach what problems of this nature yet remain for us jointly to survey, in the determination that the eventual solution shall be that best fitted to serve the interests of India as a whole, and to secure her against external aggression.

The mighty conflict in which we are now engaged must inevitably have reactions of profound importance on all countries and not least on India herself. We are fighting for the cause of human freedom. We are fighting for ideals well known, readily accepted, commanding the full support of all. The magnificent example set by Their Imperial Majesties the King-Emperor and the Queen-Empress, the way in which they have identified themselves with the feelings, the anxieties and the sufferings of their subjects throughout the Empire, the extent to which they share the common danger, are known to us all. No example more inspiring could have been given. None could be more encouraging to all who are present here today. In India Your Highnesses, representative of innumerable famous Ruling Houses, the inheritors of a great tradition of service, of an authority that has come down to you through long ages, need no reminder from me of the importance of taking all possible measures to safeguard that priceless heritage, to continue to deserve the reverence of your subjects, and to strengthen and buttress the foundations upon which it rests. For this is a time of changing ideas and of new political conceptions, and the importance of taking such measures, and taking them in time, needs no emphasis from me. In previous addresses to the Chamber of Princes I had made certain suggestions on that subject. Those suggestions have been welcomed by many Princes, and steps are being taken to adopt them in many parts of India with visible, though not as yet spectacular, results. I do not propose to repeat those suggestions today or to enlarge upon the subject, save to say once more that union and co-operation are the foundation and the source of strength. But to Your Highnesses and to the Princely Order I would make one earnest appeal, an appeal to which I know I can look with confidence for ready response. That appeal is that you should not allow yourselves or your advisers to be diverted by any considerations of a personal character from ensuring that where co-operation is necessary it shall take a form which no reasonable critic can assail on the ground that it is half-hearted. Such co-operation must, I recognise, involve sacrifices—it must involve some surrender, or, as I should prefer to say, some pooling, of cherished sovereignty. But the need for such sacrifices is a stark reality, and I am wholly satisfied that those sacrifices, when they are made, will be amply repaid by results.

Let me in conclusion remark that your agenda brings out most clearly not only that the normal function of the Chamber in such matters as the revision and the development of its constitution continues undisturbed by

war time conditions. It brings out also, and more important still, to what an extent it is your wish and your intention that this important and representative gathering, which I am so glad to see here today, shall be turned to wider account, and that it shall demonstrate to the world at this critical time how wholeheartedly and unflinchingly the Princes of India share the common determination of all those who owe allegiance to His Imperial Majesty to see the present struggle pursued, with all the energies at their disposal, until victory has been achieved and the ideals for the preservation of which we are fighting secured beyond any question.

I will not further keep Your Highnesses from your deliberations on the many important items that lie before you. There is much ground to be covered, and I am confident that the results of this meeting of the Chamber will be of real and lasting value to Your Highnesses and to your States.

His Excellency the Crown Representative: I should propose, with Your Highnesses' agreement, to pursue this year the arrangement which was found effective last year that I should call upon the movers of resolutions to rise in the order already arranged and Your Highnesses to second and speak on the motions without further words from me.

His Highness the Chancellor: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: I rise to discharge the sad duty of asking Your Highnesses to place on record our heartfelt sorrow and sense of loss at the passing away of some of the most distinguished members of our Order.

2. The toll of death in the last year has been very heavy. His Highness the late Maharaja Sahib of Mysore was one of the most illustrious and respected members of our Order. His saintliness, simplicity, high character, solicitude for his subjects marked him as one of the brightest jewels of our Order. In Mysore, he literally recreated a new State. The reforms introduced by him embraced every sphere of activity—education, public health, local self-government, city improvement, electrification, irrigation, ethnological and other surveys, agricultural improvements, and the initiation and development of industries. He devoted special attention to the liquidation of illiteracy in the State with the result that in 1938 there was a total of 8,327 schools in the State, that is, one school for every 3.52 square miles. In short His Highness was an embodiment of plain living and high thinking, and in his personality and achievements embodied a living argument in justification of the polity of Indian Kingship.

3. His late Highness of Kolhapur was one of the senior Princes who took active part in the setting up of this Chamber. He represented a very illustrious House of Maratha Rulers with most distinguished traditions. He took a very keen interest in the administration of his State. A Council of State was formed by him for carrying out the administration and his rule was distinguished for wide extension of beneficent activities including the extension of Panchayats, the setting up of municipalities and the inauguration of a Legislative Assembly. He also took a keen interest in sports and was a well known patron of the turf in India.

4. His late Highness the Maharao Saheb of Kotah was a much respected member of the Standing Committee of Princes and took a keen interest in the activities of this Chamber. He was a very conscientious ruler who gave practical proof of his solicitude for his subjects. During his rule, the remissions of land revenue amounted to Rs. 1,19,00,000 including the permanent annual remission of Rs. 3 lakhs. On three famines in his State he

sanctioned over 15 lakhs on relief work and on the occasion of the Jubilee he donated Rs. 30 lakhs for rural uplift. Moreover the reforms of the Judiciary, the setting up of a High Court, increase of the educational grant from 9,000 to 21 lakhs 35 thousand, the substantial improvement in dispensaries, local self-government, and important social legislation, have immortalised his tenure of rulership.

5. The State of Limbdi in Kathiawar has been most unfortunate. It has lost two rulers in the span of one year. His late Highness Shri Daulatsinhji belonged to the old school of rulers who was respected for his piety, simplicity and devotion. He made secondary education entirely free in his State and set up Water Works and electricity in the State. His late Highness Thakor Shri Digvijaysinhji was a very popular figure who left us in the prime of his youth when a most promising career was suddenly cut short. He played a notable part in the affairs of the Chamber of Princes and was one of the inner brain trusts of the Princes. His work as a member of the Reorganisation Committee and the Constitution Committee as well as on the Legal Implications Committee literally made history and will not be forgotten, and it is a terrible loss to this Chamber that a Prince so promising as he should have been snatched away in the prime of his youth. In his State also he started with various reforms including the extension of the Panchayat system and the setting up of a Town Council.

6. His late Highness the Thakor Sahib of Rajkot also died in the prime of his youth mourned by his many friends and admirers. During His late Highness' rule, there was substantial improvement in the communications of his State, the prosecution of anti-malarial campaign, the opening of a modern hospital and the setting up of water cisterns for the benefit of depressed classes. Large remission of duties and reductions in rural taxations were also his gifts to his peoples. He was a large-hearted Prince with a genial disposition combined with firmness.

7. We are also poorer by the sad demise of the late Ruler of Nandgaon who was one of the 26 Rulers recently admitted to the Chamber as Members in their own right.

8. From amongst constituent members, the year also witnessed the untimely demise of the popular figure of the Raja Saheb of Keonthal.

9. Your Excellency, I now commend the following resolution for the acceptance of the Chamber:—

“The Chamber of Princes records its heartfelt sorrow on the demise of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja of Mysore, the Maharaja of Kolhapur, the Maharao of Kotah, the Maharaja of Bijawar, and of the late Thakor Saheb of Rajkot, the late Thakor Sahebs of Limbdi and the late Chief of Nandgaon together with its sense of loss thereby sustained by the entire Order of the Princes and offers its sincere sympathies and condolences to the bereaved families.”

His Highness the Maharawal Sahib of Dungarpur: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: It is with a sorrowful heart that I rise to second this solemn resolution. The year that has passed has taken a heavy toll of the Princely Order. Not only is the number of Princes, whose loss we mourn today, large, but some of those who have passed away have left gaps that will be extremely difficult to fill.

His late Highness the Maharaja Sahib of Mysore was a Prince whose fame spread far beyond the shores of this great country. We all know that he was a man with a deeply religious bent of mind, that he was a genuine lover and a generous patron of art, particularly music, and that his cultural benefactions have conferred great and lasting benefits. He was, above all, a model Ruler in the strictest sense who has left a model State and a name that will endure.

His late Highness the Maharaja Sahib of Kolhapur hailed from a dynasty closely connected with the Illustrious name of the redoubtable warrior, Shivaji—a dynasty looked upon by the Marhattas with the utmost reverence. His Highness inherited the traits and qualities of his famous House. A great patron of sport, his achievements as a Ruler were, nonetheless, noteworthy. His Highness also actively associated with the deliberations of the Chamber and it is with sincere sorrow that this House mourns his loss.

In the demise of His Highness the late Maharao Sahib of Kotah, who was such a well-known and popular figure in this Chamber, our Order has suffered a very great loss indeed and the loss of Rajputana is, I feel, irreparable. With those who had the privilege of knowing this great Prince, as I had, his memory will always abide. During his long reign he strove hard to make his State ideal and happy. He was truly the Maker of modern Kotah. His constant concern and unremitting labour for the welfare of his subjects and always maintaining personal contact with them have made Kotah a State in which it can truly be said *there is Ramrajya*. His Highness was so richly endowed with all the qualities that go to make a gallant and fine Rajput, that his demise is mourned not only by every one of his devoted subjects but by all those who knew him.

It is a matter of deep grief that in the year which has passed the State of Limbdi has lost two Rulers. His late Highness Thakore Saheb Daulat-singhji was, owing to his personal qualities, benevolent rule and seniority in age, greatly loved and respected. His son Thakore Saheb Shri Digvijaysinghji was, alas! destined to rule for a very short period. But as an heir-apparent he participated in our deliberations and so often made valuable contributions.

His late Highness of Bijawar too enjoyed the esteem of Your Highnesses and was known to have introduced several reforms in his State.

We also mourn the loss of the Rulers of Rajkot and Nandgaon. The latter, unfortunately, did not survive to take his seat in this Chamber in his own right.

Your Excellency, Your Highnesses, it is with much sorrow that I beg respectfully to associate myself with His Highness the Chancellor in seconding the resolution.

His Highness the Maharaja of Dewas (Senior Branch): Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: I rise to support the resolution of condolence moved by His Highness the Chancellor. With the passing away of the Rulers of Mysore, Kolhapur, Kotah, Bijawar, Rajkot, Limbdi and Nandgaon the Princely Order has sustained a serious loss. I had the honour and privilege of personally knowing two of them, viz., Their late Highnesses of Mysore and Kolhapur.

His late Highness the Maharaja of Mysore with his saintly life, and broad outlook coupled with political sagacity had, as is wellknown, remarkably contributed towards the high standard of administration of that State, and had played no small part in the building of modern Mysore. Not only this, but also it was during his rule that Mysore became a model State in India. Above all it virtually became a centre for giving administrative training to the Indian Princes. I am proud to mention here that it was my privilege to undergo my administrative training in his State and I have always felt the time I spent in Mysore has stood me in good stead. In His late Highness we have not only lost a great and noble prince but also a ruler to whom the happiness of his people was a primary concern.

By the death of His late Highness the Chhatrapati Maharaja, Kolhapur has sustained an irreparable loss. This great ruler in carrying to completion the edifice—the foundation of which was laid by his august father, has turned Kolhapur into an industrial and intellectual centre in the Deccan for which Maharashtra and Marathas shall ever remain grateful. The great educational institutions and industrial concerns as well as the introduction of the local self-Government by him during his regime bear ample testimony to his political foresight.

At this critical juncture when the Empire is passing through stress and strain, the passing away of a Ruler, who as a natural leader of the Marathas would have been of great service to the cause of the Empire, is unfortunate. His unswerving loyalty to His Majesty the King Emperor's person and Throne is well-known.

Not only have I sustained a great presonal loss by the ultimately demise of His late Highness—my uncle but the people of Kolhapur have also lost a benevolent and revered ruler who was to them a father. The Princely Order has lost in him a valued colleague, the Marathas—a true friend and their able leader, and the Empire—a loyal and devoted supporter.

His Highness the Raja of Sangli: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: I rise to support the resolution which His Highness the Chancellor the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar has moved in such feeling and eloquent terms to express our heartfelst sorrow and sense of loss at the demise of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja Sir Sri Krishnaraja Wadiyar Bahadur of Mysore, Shri Sir Rajaram Chhatrapati Maharaj of Kolhapur and the Maharaao Sir Umed Singh Bahadur of Kotah, the late Thakor Saheb Dharmendrasinhji of Rajkot, the late Thakor Saheb Shri Sir Daulatsinhji and Shri Digvijayasinhji of Limbdi and Sri Sarveshwar Das the late Chief Saheb of Nandgaon. In view of what Their Highnesses who have preceded me have already said, there is hardly anything left to me to say in regard to the rich and varied gifts with which nature had endowed these departed Rulers except that I associate myself wholeheartedly with the tributes which have been paid just now to their memory on the floor of this House.

As a far-sighted statesman and a wise Ruler His late Highness Maharaja Sir Sri Krishnaraja Wadiyar Bahadur of Mysore has left indelible marks of his beneficent reign in the grateful hearts of his people. His Highness'

memory will remain a standing inspiration to the Princely Order. In him we have lost a great Ruler who was one of the foremost personalities in India and who always strove to richly combine the best that the Western and the Eastern civilisations stand for. His Highness gave of his best for so many years to the service of his State and his people and succeeded in making Mysore pre-eminently the model State in India. It would be no exaggeration to say of him that by his great work for his State and people he truly adorned the Princely Order.

The demise of His late Highness Maharaja Shri Sir Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj of Kolhapur has left a gloom on the whole of Maharashtra and outside. As a descendent of the great Shivaji, the Ruler of Kolhapur must hold a unique position in the esteem and regard of the country. He was a true leader of the Marathas and had qualities that inspired people who came in contact with him with a sense of confidence in his leadership. He had a generous heart and a spirit of toleration which insured for him the willing following of his subjects. In him the Princely Order has indeed lost one of its most illustrious members, His Highness was taken away in the plenitude of his career. As the leading Prince among the Rulers of the States in the Deccan His Highness wielded on the masses an influence for which it would be difficult to find a parallel and he was thus a tower of strength to the Rulers in the Deccan. Having enjoyed the privilege of his friendship ever since his accession to the Gadi, I feel it as a great personal loss that he should have been so suddenly snatched away from us.

The death of His late Highness Maharao Sri Umed Singh Bahadur of Kotah has been a great loss to Rajputana. Every one who came into contact with His Highness could not fail to be impressed by the gentleness of his manners, the kindness of his heart and the amiableness of his disposition.

The late Thakore Saheb of Limbdi Sri Sir Daulat Sinhji had many friends among the members of this House and I am proud to be able to reckon myself as one of them. To me he was pleased to extend the valued privilege of his friendship the memory of which I shall ever cherish. That his son Thakore Saheb Shri Digvijayasinhji should have been taken away within a few months of his succession to the Gadi cannot but add to the poignancy of our sorrow. I first came to know him as a fellow student of the Rajkumar College, Rajkot. After his career at this College, he had added many accomplishments to his already versatile mind. Although of late he had been keeping some-what of an indifferent health, he held a great promise of being a wise and successful Ruler. His passing away in the full prime of his youth has been a severe loss to the younger generation of Princes.

The cruel hand of death has this year inflicted on the Princely Order a terrible loss in the deaths of the Rulers we are mourning today. I join in the sympathy that has been expressed for the bereaved families of the departed Rulers. With these words I support the Resolution.

The Raja of Dhenkanal: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses; It is with feelings of the deepest regret that I rise to support the resolution moved by His Highness the Chancellor condoling the sad deaths of Their Highnesses of Mysore, Kolhapur, Kotah, Bijawar, Rajkot, Limbdi and Nandgaon. Their late Highnesses were outstanding figures in their own respective spheres, greatly loved and liked by their subjects and their loss is deeply mourned not only by their brother Princes but also by everybody with whom they came in contact. In the face of what has already been spoken by my brother Princes, I do not like to be an infliction with a lengthy speech. It is however my fervent prayer that God in His mercy will vouchsafe eternal peace to their souls and grant solace to their dear and near ones.

His Excellency the Crown Representative: Is it Your Highnesses' pleasure that this resolution be passed?

The resolution was carried unanimously.

His Highness the Chancellor: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses; It is with great pleasure that I rise to move the resolution of welcome to Their Highnesses the Maharaja Sahib of Mysore, the Maharao Sahib of Kotah, the Maharaja Sahib of Dhar, the Maharaja Sahib of Nabha, the Thakore Saheb of Rajkot and the Thakore Saheb of Limbdi.

2. His Highness the Maharaja Sahib of Mysore has succeeded to a great heritage. He is a prince highly educated, well trained, widely travelled and well equipped with knowledge of the problems confronting his State. No words can describe more truly the ideals of a conscientious ruler than those uttered by him at the time of his accession to the Gaddi. He said, "I look upon this ceremony of ascending the throne of my ancestors as a dedication of myself, my life and all I have to the service of the people of Mysore". I am sure that the best wishes of this Chamber are with him in his desire to maintain the great traditions of his illustrious House.

3. His Highness the new Maharao Sahib of Kotah is no stranger to us. He has attended several meetings of the Chamber in the company of his late illustrious father. It is gratifying to learn that he also ascended his Gaddi with declaration that "attention shall be paid to the welfare of cultivators, extension of education, organization of medical relief and other beneficent activities and that he shall always be prepared to hear and remove legitimate grievances of his people".

4. His Highness the Maharaja Sahib of Dhar is a very promising Prince and is particularly interested in rural welfare. He started his rule by announcing a remission of over seven lakhs of land revenue arrears and by inaugurating Famine Insurance Scheme with a contribution of Rs. 70,000. In addition, he has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 25,000 for the construction of rural roads and wells. He is most keenly interested in military matters and is undergoing Military Training in connection with the Central India Military Officers Training Corps.

5. His Highness the Maharaja Sahib of Nabha is also a charming and promising Prince who has made a very good impression at his first appearance at our General Conference before the Chamber Session. He has also started well with constructive work for his subjects.

6. His Highness the Thakore Saheb of Rajkot is a well travelled Prince who is a great sportsman. He has already granted remission of over 1½ lakhs to his cultivators, and regularly attends office in his State.

7. So far as the infant Thakore of Limbdi is concerned I need say nothing. We regard him as a sacred trust in Kathiawar and as the representative of a house which has been plunged into grief very badly.

8. Your Excellency, Your Highnesses, these Princes whom I have the pleasure of welcoming today are gifted with youth and promise and they take over their onerous responsibilities at an acute phase of transition in the country. They have to justify their ancestral traditions to their subjects, and they have to justify the institution of Indian Kingship to a critical world. I hope and trust that by their example and service they would win the affections of their subjects and the admiration of their friends. I further hope that they will appreciate the utility of this Chamber to the Order and will strengthen it by taking active interest in its activities. I now move:—

“The Chamber of Princes offers its heartiest congratulations to Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Mysore, the Maharao of Kotah and to the Thakore Saheb of Rajkot and the Thakore Saheb of Limbdi, on their accession to the Gaddi, and to Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Dhar and the Maharaja of Nabha on their investiture with ruling powers and wishes them a long and prosperous life”.

His Highness the Raja of Sangli: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: I am happy indeed to have the privilege of seconding the resolution moved by His Highness the Chancellor the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar with his usual ability offering our heartiest congratulations to Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Mysore and the Maharao of Kotah and to the Thakore Saheb of Rajkot and Thakore Saheb of Limbdi on their accession to the Gaddi and to Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Dhar and Maharaja of Nabha on their assumption of ruling powers and to wish them a long and prosperous life.

When we remember how the future is in the hands of the younger generation, we cannot but be filled with encouragement at the prospect of the new hope, the new courage and the new strength these Princes represent.

His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore has received valuable training in the task of administration under the eyes of His late Highness Maharaja Sir Krishnaraja Wadiyar Bahadur and his mantle has now fallen upon His Highness. His Highness is descended from a House of brilliant traditions and history, and, if I may be permitted to say so, His Highness has already given great promise of adding still greater lustre to the fame of his historic house.

Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Kotah, Dhar and Nabha inherit the noble traditions of a Rajput, Maratha and Sikh dynasty respectively and are equipped by their education and tradition for the great task which awaits them. The qualities with which they are endowed are a guarantee that their reign will be successful.

At a time when India, nay the whole world, is facing a crisis of unprecedented character I make no doubt that the Rulers will prove themselves equal to the noble traditions which they inherit and thus distinguish themselves in the discharge of the duties and responsibilities that it is the privilege of the Princely Order to shoulder at this juncture. I join whole heartedly in the congratulations which have been paid to them and the wishes which have been expressed about their long and prosperous rule. With these words I second this resolution.

His Excellency the Crown Representative: Is it Your Highnesses' pleasure that the resolution be accepted?

The resolution was carried unanimously.

His Highness the Chancellor: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: I rise to move the following resolution standing in my name:—

“The Chamber of Princes extends a cordial welcome to the Rulers recently admitted as members of the Chamber in their own right and confidently hopes that by continuing to take an active and constructive interests in the affairs of this Chamber and the ordered progress of their respective States, these members will prove a source of added strength to the Chamber of Princes.”.

2. Your Excellency is aware that the important question of the enlargement of the Chamber of Princes has a history behind it. According to the constitution of this Chamber, its Members are—

- (i) Rulers of States who enjoyed permanent dynastic salutes of 11 guns or over on the 1st January, 1920, and
- (ii) Rulers of States who exercise such full or practically full internal powers as in the opinion of His Excellency the Viceroy qualify them for admission to the Chamber.

The right of admission to the Chamber as Members under first category is limited to the enjoyment of permanent dynastic salutes of 11 guns or over on the 1st January, 1920, and therefore no new Members of the Chamber in their own right can be admitted now under this sub-clause, even if their salutes are raised to 11 guns or more. Various Rulers however applied from time to time for admission as Members of the Chamber under sub-clause (ii). It was generally felt that the future additions to the Members of the Chamber of Princes must be made on some definite tests and principles, and the matter was accordingly discussed at the meeting of the Princes' Standing Committee on the 5th February, 1932, which referred it to a Special Committee consisting of Their Highnesses of Alwar, Bhopal, Bikaner, Nawanagar and Patiala, and the Political Secretary to the Government of India. The Special Committee met on the 25th March, 1933, at which certain divergent opinions were expressed but no agreed conclusions were reached. The minutes of proceedings of this meeting were circulated to the Members of the Standing Committee, and the opinions received showed substantial divergence of views amongst the Members. The majority of opinion seemed in favour of a very limited addition to the membership of the Chamber, while the minority opinion favoured a more liberal enlargement of the Chamber with a view to make-

it as representative as possible. The minority was led by His late Highness the Maharaja Sahib of Patiala who recorded his famous minute of dissent on the subject which later made history in a settlement of this subject.

3. The question remained there till January 1937, when it was again taken up at a meeting of the Standing Committee of Princes. The Political Secretary then pointed out that in view of the divergent opinion amongst the Princes, the Crown Department were awaiting a unanimous recommendation, and that it was preferable to mark time until a consensus of opinion was obtainable. The matter was again considered at an informal conference of Princes and Ministers in February 1937, at which a Criteria Committee was constituted with a view to examine all the available suggestions and to make its recommendations.

4. In February 1938, the Standing Committee of Princes appointed a representative Committee with Rulers and representatives of the bigger and the smaller States "to formulate proposals for the re-organization of the Chamber of Princes". This Committee met in Bombay in June 1938, and *inter alia* unanimously adopted the following resolution:—

"With a view to removing the dissatisfaction which exists amongst certain Rulers of States, in addition to the adoption of the reforms set forth in the preceding Resolutions, this Re-organization Committee supports the admission in their own right as Members of the Chamber of Princes, of such Rulers as may be found eligible thereto on such tests as may be proposed by the Criteria Committee and approved by the Chamber of Princes".

5. The Criteria Committee met in Bombay in February 1938, and made a report, which was considered at the General Conference of Rulers and Representatives of States held in Bombay in November and December 1938. This Conference accepted the recommendations of the Criteria Committee with a few additional suggestions.

6. The matter was again taken up with the Political Adviser at the meeting of the Standing Committee held on the 26th January 1940, and after giving careful consideration to the claims of the various States, certain recommendations were made on the basis of which Your Excellency has been pleased to exercise the discretion vested in you under Article 2 of the Constitution of the Chamber of Princes, and to admit in their own right Rulers of 26 States whom we welcome today as our full fledged colleagues.

7. In examining the claims of the various States, the Standing Committee received particular help from a Special Committee which did valuable work under the Chairmanship of His Highness the Raja Sahib of Mandi.

8. The additions of these 26 Members has further enhanced the representative character of the Chamber of Princes. There are a few others whose cases desired special consideration, and we share their disappointment that it has not been possible at present to include them as full members. It is with the greatest pleasure that I offer a whole-hearted welcome to these new Members of the Chamber, and I wish to assure them that the accident of their being late-comers will not in any manner detract, so far as we are concerned, from their status as full Members of

the Chamber. At the same time let me reiterate our confident hope that these new Members will prove a source of strength to this Chamber by taking active interest in its deliberations. Moreover, they join us at a time when public opinion is critically focussed on the activities of our Order. As such, we expect of our new colleagues that they will justify their Order by the ordered progress of their States and their solicitude for their people.

9. In conclusion, I wish to make an appeal to Your Excellency, as the President of this Chamber, that you may be pleased to consider sympathetically that the privileges accorded to the Members of the Chamber of Princes which in certain cases are not enjoyed by some of the new Members because of their not enjoying salute of guns may be extended to them.

H. H. the Maharaja of Patiala: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: It is with genuine pleasure that I associate myself with this resolution of welcome to the 26 members recently admitted to the Chamber. The question of the enlargement of the Chamber by the addition of more members in their own right on some well-defined tests had been on the tapis for about a decade, as it was realised very early that to ensure unity of the Princes within the fold of the Chamber, it was necessary to make its membership accessible to all Rulers enjoying full sovereignty irrespective of special dignity and salute. The Standing Committee and the Chamber owe a deep debt of gratitude to His Excellency for the satisfactory settlement of this question which has been pending for a long time. The new admissions carry to its legitimate end the idea of concerted action and full co-operation amongst the Princes which has been institutionally expressed in the Chamber of Princes, and we all hope that they will contribute to the strength and utility of this body. The matter affords me particular satisfaction inasmuch as my late lamented Father had been so closely associated with the question of the enlargement of the Chamber and I have myself always shared his keen interest in the welfare of the smaller States. He always firmly held the view that the Chamber should be fully representative of the big and small States, that as far as possible the Princes should stand united on questions affecting their Order, and the Empire, and that any attempt to bring back some of the bigger States into the fold of the Chamber should not unreasonably exclude any of the so-called smaller States which were entitled to admission. These considerations coupled with his keen desire to safeguard the legitimate interests of the smaller States made him interest himself so actively in this issue and it is a matter of sincere gratification to me to see today the recognition of a cause that he had so much at heart.

I heartily join His Highness the Chancellor in according a warm welcome to the newly admitted members and in offering them our congratulations. I am sure I am voicing the feelings of all the Princes present here when I say that it is a source of deep satisfaction to the members of our Order who have had full representation on the Chamber that the organization could hereafter count on the active co-operation of the new members in the activities of the Chamber and we all look forward to their extending to us in full measure the benefit of their participation in our deliberations. The new members join us at a time when the Empire is passing through an acute phase of stress and strain and we need, more than we did at any other period of our history, to pull our united weight.

together. The Indian States, besides their individual existence, have a corporate life which so far has not received from us such attention and consideration as it deserves. I sincerely hope that this infusion of fresh blood will bring new life and initiative to the Chamber of Princes and will usher in an era of increased mutual co-operation and solidarity in the Princely Order. I have great pleasure in seconding this resolution.

H. H. the Raja of Mandi: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: It is with the greatest pleasure that I associate myself with this Resolution and accord the new members my warm and hearty welcome to the Narendra Mandal.

I am sure I am voicing the feelings of all assembled here when I say that it is a matter of great satisfaction to us all and may I add to me personally that through the able guidance and full support of our popular Chancellor and the great interest evinced by our experienced Pro-Chancellor, who unfortunately is not with us today—and above all with the ready and sympathetic consideration given by Your Excellency the right of the several of the Princes to be members of this Chamber in their own right has at last been recognised. I have no doubt that ere long the case of others who have unfortunately not so far been admitted to the membership of this Chamber in their own right would also receive generous and sympathetic consideration at Your Excellency's gracious hands. Sir, the Indian States along with the rest of the world are passing through a very critical period—a period of great stress and strain, which calls for highest qualities of statesmanship and sacrifice for the satisfactory solution of the important and intricate problems that confront us today. In such circumstances the responsibilities which devolve on the Indian Princes to not only justify their ancestral traditions of Indian Kingship of which we are all proud, but also to shoulder their onerous responsibilities in the service of their people, are indeed very great.

I have no doubt that all those brother Princes whom I have the pleasure of welcoming to this Chamber today will appreciate the exigencies of the times and by their innate sense of leadership and service make contributions worthy of the high traditions of our Order.

I also beg to tender my personal congratulations and best wishes to the new members.

H. H. the Maharaja of Dewas (Senior Br.): Your Excellency, and Your Highnesses: It is indeed a pleasant duty for me to support the resolution moved by H. H. the Chancellor. This addition to the Chamber, has removed not only a long felt want but also a lurking dissatisfaction in the minds of some of our Order. We all feel that with their accretion to the Chamber, the strength and the range of its work will be widened and the usefulness of its deliberations will be considerably enhanced. With their energetic and active co-operation and sustained team work, it would be possible for this Chamber to render more useful service to the cause of the states, in steering their destinies through a most critical period in their history.

I now heartily support the resolution welcoming the New Members to our midst. In supporting this resolution and welcoming them as full-fledged members of this Chamber, I sincerely hope that their advent will not only strengthen the Chamber but will also infuse new spirit and enthusiasm in its work.

The Raja of Seraikela: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: I rise to thank His Highness the Chancellor for the resolution of welcome to the newly admitted members of the Chamber of Princes so kindly moved by him and to Their Highnesses who have supported it in such generous terms. The inclusion in the membership of the Chamber in their own right of 26 Rulers who up till now were not directly represented in the Chamber of Princes must be regarded as an event of great political significance and importance as it has made the Chamber much more representative of the Princely Order. This great and statesman-like decision of Your Excellency has also resulted in the removal of a long-standing grievance of those States. In fact this is a unique event in the history of the Chamber as during the past two decades, *i.e.*, ever since the inauguration of the Chamber of Princes by H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught I believe no weightier or more important decision than this has ever been reached. On the consummation of this long-cherished desire of those States, I as one who was associated with this problem for the last 13 years, beg to echo their feelings of intense gratitude towards Your Excellency who has been graciously pleased to remove the anomalous position hitherto occupied by those States in consultation with H. H. the Chancellor and Their Highnesses of the Standing Committee. I beg to assure Your Excellency and H. H. the Chancellor that we will do our best to prove a source of strength to the Chamber and not a source of weakness.

Speaking for the Eastern States, permit me to express the earnest hope that the wider rights and privileges which their new status connotes will be interpreted in a truly liberal spirit and enjoyed by them in the fullest measure and that no practice or convention would be allowed to grow which may produce a cramping effect on their extended powers.

Raja Saheb of Bhor: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses; It is a matter of great pleasure to me to have this honour and privilege of rising to make a thanks-giving speech.

Your Excellency and Your Highnesses know that this is the first time that I am attending the Chamber's Session as a Member in my own right. You would, therefore, I trust, appreciate if I desire to avail myself of this opportunity to express my sincere feelings of deep and grateful indebtedness to His Excellency the Viceroy for being pleased to accept the recommendations of the Criteria Committee and the then Standing Committee of the Chamber regarding the reorganisation of the Chamber—a thing, that has gone a great way in making the Chamber truly representative of almost all the States, big and small, and thus adding considerably to its weight, dignity and prestige. I would also be failing in my duty if I let this occasion pass without expressing my thanks to the members of the above-mentioned two august bodies for doing the right in recommending, on principles of justice and equity, my State, along with 25 others similarly placed, to the Permanent Membership of the Chamber.

Your Excellency and Your Highnesses may be knowing that I was a Representative Member of the Chamber on behalf of the Central Group of the States in the Deccan from 1922 to 1930 A.D. during all which time I always took a great interest in the affairs of the Chamber. Thereafter, although our Group came to be for some years represented in the Chamber by my brother-rulers the Raja Sahebs of Phaltan and Jath, almost every year I took care to attend in person the Chamber Session in Delhi to be in

close touch with the Chamber's work. Even when I was in England in 1930 A.D. in my speech before the East India Association I lost no opportunity to ventilate the aspirations of the Chamber—especially, those of smaller States before the highly-placed personages and men of influence assembled there. You will thus see that the interests of the Chamber of Princes were always close to my heart and I took every opportunity, that offered itself to me, to advance its cause in my humble ways here as well as in England. It therefore needs no particular mention from me that I will continue in that very close relations with the Chamber and promote its interests in the best of my capacities.

With these few words I take leave to resume my seat.

The Raja of Jamkhandi: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses; I rise to perform the very pleasant duty of thanking Your Excellency and Your Highnesses for the hearty welcome accorded to me on my first appearance in this Chamber as a member in my own right. I perform this duty from the bottom of my heart.

With your kind permission I wish to allude briefly to the facts connected with my admission to this august body. I belong to a group of Rulers in the Deccan whose right of membership in their individual right was not recognised when this Chamber was inaugurated in 1921 though as Rulers exercising full powers they were under the rules of the Constitution of this Chamber entitled to such privilege. This Group sent no representative to this Chamber until 1928 when the Members of this Group thought not to leave their representative seat vacant and elected me to represent them. So I had the honour of representing this Group continuously for 12 years. We sought redress of our legitimate grievance by joint as well as individual representations to the Government. I also urged the matter before the Criteria Committee and in the Informal Meetings and regular sessions of the Chamber whenever there was an opportunity. It was only last year that Your Excellency was pleased to recognise the right of individual membership of only two of our Group. Indeed I feel deeply indebted to Your Excellency and to His Highness the Chancellor and the members of the Standing and Criteria Committee for this decision. I cannot however forget that this privilege still remains to be extended to other members of this Group and I only hope that time in its goodness will see their grievance also duly redressed.

I am aware of my responsibilities as a member of this great institution and wish to assure Your Excellency and Your Highnesses that I will always try to the best of my abilities to uphold the dignity and traditions of this House.

I thank Your Excellency and Your Highnesses again for the cordial welcome accorded to me.

The Raja of Miraj (Senior): Your Excellency and Your Highnesses: I rise, with your kind permission, to express my grateful thanks to Your Excellency and brother Princes, for the very cordial welcome that has been extended to me and the kind words said about me, on this occasion of my entry into this August House in my own individual right.

I am aware that the credit of this enlargement of the basis of admission to this Chamber must go in a large measure to the sympathy and consideration which Your Excellency has brought to bear on this question. Ever

since the inauguration of the Chamber, the question of admission has been under consideration and the original test of full internal power was later modified by other factors such as guns etc. Since, more than one test were adopted as the criteria of admission, certain anomalies and invidious distinctions had naturally crept in. It was all the more gracious on the part of Your Excellency to have found time among the many pressing and arduous duties of Your Excellency's exalted office to ensure a very happy solution of this problem. I, therefore, feel it my duty to express on behalf of my State and myself my deep sense of gratitude to Your Excellency. My thanks are no less due to the leaders of this House for the sympathetic attitude they took in this matter.

I must thank Your Excellency in a special measure for having given this question a particularly favourable consideration, and I express a sincere hope on behalf of the smaller States and on my own, that in years to come the same sympathy and consideration will be shown in dealing with matters and problems affecting the States and especially the smaller States.

We on our part feel and honestly hold that the smaller States have a definite role to play in the reconstruction of India and if their due is given to them and their place assured in the future polity of India they will surely justify the consideration shown to them. We though small in size have the same traditions as our bigger brothers and we feel that we will not be found wanting when called upon to do our bit in the cause of India and the Empire.

I am quite aware of the heavy responsibilities that I have to discharge as a member of this House and I shall always try my utmost to uphold and maintain the prestige, dignity and the traditions of the Chamber.

Before concluding I once more express my heartfelt thanks to Your Excellency and to Your Highnesses for this welcome extended to other new members and myself.

The Raja of Korea: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: I consider it a great privilege to have this opportunity of very respectfully thanking Your Excellency for the message of welcome extended to us in Your Excellency's opening Address and for the kind Resolution moved by H. H. the Chancellor and Their Highnesses of Patiala, Mandi and Dewas (Senior). We greatly appreciate this very kind gesture of goodwill and brotherhood which is embodied in our admission and we owe it as a duty to our States and ourselves, to express our sincere gratitude to Your Excellency for your gracious decision in recognising our claim to full membership of the Chamber. This distinction was unfortunately not enjoyed by us for many years and we felt it as an acute grievance. We are very thankful to H. H. the Chancellor, Their Highnesses of the Standing Committee and other liberal hearted Rulers for their support and sympathy so generously and consistently extended to us in our efforts to secure full membership for the States which were entitled to such membership, but were unfortunate in not being placed in the roll of permanent Members of the Chamber. As one who had the privilege of being humbly associated with these efforts, it is a matter of immense gratification to me to feel, thanks to Your Excellency's gracious decision that our efforts have been crowned with success and a long standing grievance has been removed. We also,

sincerely hope that in the wake of this distinction all the various privileges which are associated with the permanent membership of the Chamber, and to which Your Excellency's attention has just been drawn by H. H. the Chancellor, would very graciously and liberally be extended, and if we still have any grievances on this score they would be sympathetically examined and redressed. We are very thankful to H. H. the Chancellor for his inspiring message, and on behalf of the new members and my humble self may I take the opportunity of assuring H. H. and Your Highnesses that it would be our earnest and constant endeavour as full members of this Chamber to serve the cause of the Princely Order and uphold the traditions of this august House to the best of our ability.

His Excellency the Crown Representative: Is it your Highnesses' pleasure that this Resolution be passed?

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

H. H. The Chancellor: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses: I rise to move that—

"In view of the recent admission of 26 new members to the Chamber of Princes in their own right this Chamber recommends that the number of Representative Members may be reduced from 12 to 10 of whom four shall be elected by the Rulers of States specified in Part I of the Appendix to Regulation IV; two by the Rulers of States specified in Part II of the said Appendix; two by the Rulers of States specified in Part III of the said Appendix; one by the Rulers of States specified in Part IV of the said Appendix; and one by the Rulers of States in Part V of the said Appendix, and

(b) that the following States may be included in Part I of the Appendix to Regulation IV:—

Shahpure, Jambughoda, Malpur, Mansa, Mohanpur, Khirasra and Kurundwad (Junior)."

2. As you are aware till recently this Chamber consisted of 109 Members in their own right and 12 Representative Members who were returned by their constituent States. Recently, on the recommendations of the Standing Committee of Princes, 26 new members have been added to the Chamber in their own right out of the constituent States. Moreover, it was found that certain States which possessed the qualifications prescribed for the electorate of Representative Members had not been included so far in the electorate. The Standing Committee carefully examined all these cases, and also gave due consideration to the requests of the various Rulers concerned. The result of this examination by the Standing Committee is embodied in the resolution which I have now the honour to move.

3. The electorate for Representative Members is printed as an Appendix to Regulation IV to the Constitution of the Chamber of Princes. Under Article 12 of the constitution of the Chamber, these regulations can be varied or added to from time to time by His Excellency the Viceroy in consultation with the Chamber. The approval of this Chamber is accordingly sought to the revised electorate for Representative Members now proposed.

H. H. the Raja of Mandi: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses; While rising to second this Resolution, I would like to add that though as a result of the enlargement of this Chamber the number of representative members has unfortunately had to be reduced, still it would, however, add to the representative capacity of the Chamber if on reconsideration the franchise were to be sufficiently extended to enable larger number of the States who are not members in their own right to send representative members so that in one way or another all States could have the honour of being associated with the useful activities of the Chamber of Princes and thereby further strengthen the unity amongst the Indian States.

H. E. the Crown Representative: Is it Your Highnesses' pleasure that this Resolution be accepted?

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

His Highness the Chancellor: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses; I now rise to move the following resolution which stands in my name:—

"The Chamber of Princes records its deep sense of abhorrence of the callous Nazi violation of all international law and morality culminating in the shameless bombing of Buckingham Palace. The Chamber offers its devout gratefulness to Providence for His protection of Their Majesties the King-Emperor and the Queen, and desires that this devoted expression of the personal attachment of the Indian Princes to Their Majesties, and of the deep concern of the Princes for their welfare may be placed before Their Majesties."

Your Excellency, history must record, as was pointed out by Your Excellency in the course of your address to joint Session of the Houses of the Central Legislature, last year that "no single one of those (Nazi) pledges has been honoured. Each one of them has been broken with entire disregard for those standards of truth and international morality on the basis of which alone the world can hold together or hope to progress. And Nazi breaches of faith have been not merely a breach of faith. They have represented a denial of justice; a refusal to recognise any guiding principle save that of force, a complete and cynical disregard for the principles that regulate the intercourse of nation with nation; an anxiety to turn to the fullest advantage the absence of preparedness of those nations who had believed in the sanctity and in the sacredness of the undertaking given on behalf of a great nation by the rulers of that nation." The zenith of the Nazi brutality was reached in the shameless bombing of the Buckingham Palace.

Your Excellency, no words of mine are needed to emphasize the unbroken record of the inalienable loyalty of the Princes to the Person and Throne of their beloved King Emperor and the illustrious House of Windsor. This had over and over been demonstrated in the normal activities of peace-time as well as in the fiery ordeals of the war during the past century and more of the Princes relations with the Imperial Crown. Moreover, if ever any one has truly deserved and won, love and loyalty of his people, it is our beloved King Emperor and also His gracious Consort, and we are aware how inspiringly Their Imperial Majesties are sharing the anxieties and privations of their devoted subjects during the present crisis.

We all feel that the brutal Nazi bombing of the Buckingham Palace was aimed at Their Majesties because they are the symbol of our Commonwealth, and they embody in Their August Persons the best that is in the Empire. As such, our devoted thoughts are constantly with Their Majesties, and we share the great concern of the Empire and the allied countries over Their Majesties Welfare. The Nazi violation of all international morality in bombing the Buckingham Palace and the gracious courage and dignity with which Their Majesties faced these shameless raids, have charged the best that is in the British Commonwealth and the allied countries, with a new and sacred resolve to dedicate all they can for the success of His Majesty's Arms. It has been a source of great disappointment to the Indian Princes, and to me particularly as an A. D. C. to His Majesty the King Emperor, that we have not been permitted, inspite of our repeated requests, to be by the side of His Majesty at this hour of trial.

Your Excellency, we are all grateful for the gracious terms in which His Majesty has been pleased to refer to the war efforts of the Indian Princes but in particular we have been touched by the proud reference, in that gracious message, that His Majesty knows that he can rely on the loyalty of the Indian Princes in the hour of trial. This is a trust which we of the Indian States regard as a sacred heritage, which we are determined to maintain.

And now while offering our devout gratefulness to Providence for His protection of Their Majesties the King Emperor and the Queen, I beg to commend this resolution for the acceptance of the Chamber.

His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses; I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution moved by His Highness the Chancellor and to associate myself whole-heartedly with the deep indignation he has expressed on behalf of Princely India at the dastardly attack on the Buckingham Palace.

Your Highnesses, ever since the Nazi Rulers of Germany saddled themselves on that unfortunate country they have made it abundantly clear by means of their consistently flagrant disregard of all treaty obligations and of accepted methods of international dealings—whether in Peace or in War—that it is a criminal folly to expect fairplay or decent conduct from them. The fate that has befallen the countries that walked unwarily into the Nazi Octopus, amply proves that woe betide the Nations that place any reliance in the *bona fides* of these self-confessed apostles of brute force and bad faith. Indeed, what could be expected of those who have imbibed the sacrilegious philosophy which seeks to deprive man of all his spiritual and moral heritage and to remodel him on the lines of an automaton endowed with mechanical efficiency but with no room for the soul to operate? However, one has to confess that even to those who know it well that the Nazis are, if anything, specialists in all kinds of lapses from the ordered decencies of national and international life, the deliberate and cold-blooded attack in broad day light on the Buckingham Palace came as a great shock and the fact that even the incorrigible Dr. Goebbels betrayed a faint blush through his generally impenetrable cloak of brazen-facedness is an indication of the heinous nature of the outrage.

Your Highnesses are aware of the wide-spread wave of indignation that the news of this cowardly attack on the sacred persons of Their Majesties sent through the length and breadth of the Empire and the sense of relief that was felt even beyond the Empire at the safety of Their Majesties; the spontaneous outburst of intense feeling of horror and abhorrence that was witnessed after the outrage, is a glowing testimony to the love and respect in which Their Imperial Majesties are held throughout the Empire. It is hardly necessary for me or for anyone else to speak of the unwavering loyalty and attachment of the Indian Princes to the Person and Throne of His Imperial Majesty. In this world of upheavals the British Empire is the only stabilising element and His Majesty constitutes the living symbol of unity of the diverse component parts of the far-flung Empire comprising different races, castes and creeds. From the time of the historic announcement made by Queen Victoria of blessed memory, the Indian Princes have regarded the King Emperor as the safest guarantee for the protection of their rights and for the continuance of their dynasties. It was natural, therefore, that to us, who feel bound by the strongest ties of gratitude and loyalty to the Imperial Crown, this shameless attack at Their Majesties' residential Palace, caused the most intense concern and the resolution before us gives expression to the sentiments shared by every member of our Order.

His Majesty, by his complete identification with the interests of his peoples and by his courageous devotion to duty, has endeared himself to all his peoples. The bombardment of His Majesty's residential Palace has served to bring home to the people the fact that in this fearful game in which the whole Nations are fighting and suffering together, the highest and the lowest bear the brunt alike. This war, unlike the previous ones, is a conflict to a much greater degree, of organization, of material and moral resources, and above all, of morale of the belligerent Nations. It is a matter of deep gratification to all of us that the frantic efforts of the Nazis to shake the morale of the peoples of the United Kingdom, of which the bombardment of the Buckingham Palace, no doubt, ranks as the ugliest, have served only to steel the determination of the peoples of the Empire to force their way to the final victory. We confidently look forward to the day of reckoning of the blood-thirsty tyrant whose unbounded lust for power is responsible for plunging the entire world into untold miseries and wide-spread blood-shed. I sincerely pray that the Empire may emerge triumphant and victorious from the grim struggle in which it is involved today and that Almighty may vouchsafe to the King Emperor long long years to preside over the destinies of the peoples of the Empire.

Your Highnesses, I second the resolution moved by His Highness the Chancellor.

His Highness the Nawab of Bahawalpur: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses; I deem it a great privilege to support the Resolution so ably sponsored by His Highness the Chancellor. We are all aware that, in violation of the laws of civilized warfare and international morality, the German barbarians have not even hesitated to attack in London the Royal residence of Their Majesties, our beloved King Emperor and the Queen Empress.

This atrocious action has most rightly caused abhorrence and resentment throughout the civilized world, and no language can be too strong to condemn such vandalism and wanton mischief.

If I may be permitted to say, we the Princes of India whose interests, hopes and aspirations are for ever centered round the August personality of His Majesty, were deeply shocked to learn of the most dastardly action of the enemy in attacking the Royal Palace and we deeply and strongly condemn these atrocious attacks and express our gratitude to the Almighty for the miraculous escape of Their Majesties from all harm.

This mean and uncalled for attempt of the enemy on the Royal Palace, which is the symbol of the unity of the Empire and the centre of veneration by us all, has further strengthened our resolve to do our very best and to use every human effort to assist in vanquishing and finally annihilating an enemy who has no scruples in resorting to such wicked devices in these civilized times.

To me and the brethren of my faith, loyalty to the person of the King Emperor is a sacred creed, I feel that I am not far wrong if I say how very few realize that the British Empire is the largest Muslim Empire in the world. There can be no doubt that the feelings of this great mass of Muslim population have been sorely outraged by this act, and that their resentment is shared by co-religionists in all friendly Islamic Countries.

Finally it is our ardent prayer that God Almighty may be pleased to preserve Their Majesties and the members of the Royal family from all harm and that Their Majesties may rule over the vast British Empire and the millions of loyal and faithful subject for many many years to come.

H. H. the Nawab of Rampur: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses; It is at once a privilege and an honour to support the resolution which His Highness the Chancellor has moved. The person of His Majesty the King is to the Ruling Princes of India something sacred, deserving of being jealously and faithfully guarded and preserved as the sum total of our most treasured possessions. Any act of the enemy, therefore, which endangers the person of His Majesty, and naturally the person of his gracious Consort, is one which must fill the Ruling Princes of India with the utmost horror. Buckingham Palace is the London home of Their Majesties and in keeping with the great devotion to duty which has always inspired their private and public lives, they have continued to reside there and to share the dangers of their peoples in London, fearing nothing, and performing their appointed tasks with unflinching courage, tireless energy and a sublime love for their millions of subjects. Your Highnesses, the bombing of Buckingham Palace was a supreme act of vandalism on the part of the enemy, but we must be grateful to Providence that it did not harm the sacred person of His Majesty; it is fitting therefore that we should extend to him our heartiest congratulations and join with them our fervent hope that if the cowardly attack is repeated it will fail and fail again. Your Highnesses, our great beloved King, like the people of the Metropolis in which he lives and does his duty so nobly, *can take it*. We are proud of him, we congratulate him, we pray that he will long be spared to guide the destinies and fortunes of the peoples of the British Empire.

His Highness the Raja of Sangli: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses; It is my proud privilege to have this opportunity of supporting the resolution now before the House which His Highness the Chancellor Maharaja

Jam Saheb of Nawanagar has moved with that eloquence and ability which we have learnt to associate with his name.

Everybody knows that a war is a dreadful affair and realises that when it breaks out, the combatants must be prepared for the direst fate overtaking those who are engaged in the actual fighting. But even so far back as when history began to be recorded and when evidently man was in the primitive stage of civilisation, he had already evolved laws of war and a healthy respect for them. To take an example from the epic war of the Mahabharat, we find that actual fighting was put a stop to every day at sun-set after which either party refrained from acts of active hostility until next sun-rise so that the combatant forces could have time to look after the dead and the wounded irrespective of the side to which they belonged. Even in modern times, it is well known, a moral code of conduct has always been observed in war by civilised communities all over the world. In fact if there is anything that distinguishes man from the rest of the creation, it is the glory of man that he has built up a moral code of conduct to govern even conditions of belligerency. When, therefore, a nation chooses to plunge into barbaric ways with all the perverseness and fury of animals, it can have no claim to be put within the pale of humanity, whatever pretence it may lay to be considered progressive in arts or sciences. It certainly passes imagination to see that the Nazis should have thrown to the winds all consideration for the laws of civilised warfare and resorted to systematic murder of the civilian population—men, women and children or even the infirm and the ailing.

So many of us who have gone to England know for ourselves that, to take an example, London comprises no military objectives which could justify such nauseating and indiscriminate bombing attacks from the enemy. It cannot but, therefore, send a thrill of horror and detestation through us to find that the enemy should continue from day to day in a spirit of sheer violence and vandalism to bomb schools, hospitals and churches. But it is surely a climax that the enemy should try to hit even the Buckingham Palace with his infernal bombs. If the enemy thereby hoped to strike terror in the hearts of the Britisher, he has by now been entirely disillusioned. He may break down houses. But he has seen that he cannot break down the soul of England. On the other hand he has only excited abhorrence and indignation. Buckingham Palace as the residence of our beloved King Emperor and Queen Empress is to us of the Empire no mere ordinary dwelling place but the temple of all that is exalted, sacred and dear to us and is, therefore, held in the highest esteem, reverence and affection. No feendish attack on it can fail to stiffen the determination of the constituent parts of the Empire including the Princes and the States to carry on the fight to the bitter end.

When England is fighting single-handed the battle of human freedom and civilisation, the execrable methods of violence employed by the enemy cannot but give rise to feelings of detestation and horror. It is no wonder that the intrepid valour and the dauntless steadfastness of the British nation should have roused the mighty democracy of the United States of America to realise the common danger that the aggression of the dictators spells to the peace and progress of the civilised world and led it to array itself on the side of the British. We the

Princes of India are proud, at such a moment, of the Providential link which binds us to the British Crown and feel it to be a matter of the highest honour and privilege to be able to play our humble role in the war effort of the Empire. We wish to assure Their Majesties that we stand by all the obligations which such a link implies, when all India is proud, as has been voiced by so many of her respected leaders, to play their part in this war of liberation of humanity from the threat of the Nazi domination.

It is indeed the matter of the highest inspiration that Their Majesties the King Emperor and the Queen Empress should continue to be at their post of duty in spite of all the peril that is involved in it. Their Majesties have thus laid down a glorious example of the supreme duty of Kingship. At this critical moment it is the prayer of the Princes that the Almighty may be pleased in His infinite mercy to vouchsafe his fullest protection to Their Majesties and lead them ultimately to triumphant victory and lasting peace.

I commend this resolution to the enthusiastic and earnest acceptance of this House.

His Excellency the Crown Representative: Is it Your Highnesses' pleasure that the resolution be accepted?

The resolution was carried unanimously.

His Excellency the Crown Representative: I understand that it is the wish of Your Highnesses to adjourn at this stage until 11 o'clock to-morrow, Tuesday; and I have to remind Your Highnesses that a photograph will now be taken.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND DAY.

The 18th March 1941.

The Chamber assembled at the Princes' Chamber, Council House at 11 A.M. on Tuesday, the 18th March 1941. His Excellency the Crown Representative presided.

The following Ruling Princes and Chiefs were present:—

Central India States

His Highness the Maharaja of Datia.	His Highness the Maharaja of Dewas (Junior Branch).
His Highness the Maharaja of Dewas (Senior Branch).	The Raja of Nagod. The Raja of Sarila.

Deccan States

The Raja of Bhor.	The Raja of Miraj (Sr.)
The Raja of Jamkhandi.	His Highness the Raja of Sangli.

Eastern States

His Highness the Maharaja of Cooch Behar.	The Raja of Korea.
The Raja of Dhenkanal.	The Maharaja of Patna.
The Maharaja of Kalahandi.	The Raja of Raigarh.
The Raja of Keonjhar.	The Raja of Seraikela.
The Raja of Khairagarh.	The Maharaja of Sonepur.

Gujarat States

The Raja of Jawhar.

Gwalior Agency

His Highness the Nawab of Rampur.

Punjab States

His Highness the Nawab of Bahawalpur.	His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala.
His Highness the Raja of Faridkot.	His Highness the Maharaja of Sirmur.
The Raja of Jubbal.	His Highness the Raja of Suket.
His Highness the Raja of Mandi.	His Highness the Maharaja of Tehri (Garhwal).
His Highness the Maharaja of Nabha.	

Rajputana States

His Highness the Maharaja of Alwar.	His Highness the Maharawal of Dungarpur.
His Highness the Maharaja of Bharatpur.	His Highness the Maharao Raja of Bundi.

Western India States

His Highness the Maharaja of Morvi.	His Highness the Maharaja Rana Saheb of Porbandar.
His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar.	His Highness the Maharana Raj Saheb of Wankaber.
The Thakor Saheb of Palitana.	

His Excellency the Crown Representative took the Chair and called upon His Highness the Chancellor to speak.

His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses; I rise to move the resolution on war which reads as follows:—

“The Chamber of Princes records its heartiest gratification at the recent brilliant victories of the Imperial and Allied Forces in Africa and Albania and at the inspiring stand of England against the brutal Nazi air-raids and is proud to learn that the Indian troops have played such a magnificent part in these achievements. The Chamber requests His Excellency the Crown Representative to convey to His Majesty’s Government and particularly to that dauntless Soldier-Statesman, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the sincerest congratulations of the Princes of India on these glorious victories which are regarded as a promising augury of final victory, for the eventual achievement of which the Indian Princes do reiterate their determination to continue to put forth their best efforts”.

It is a solemn resolution, carefully considered and deliberately moved, after full and free consultation amongst the Indian Princes. It is a declaration of our unanimous attitude towards the War, and it carries behind it the strength of our entire resources and the grim determination of the Indian Princes and their loyal subjects.

2. The Indian Princes shared with the rest of the Empire the great concern during the dark hours when France suddenly collapsed. That was a time when the brutal wrath of the Nazi greed had abused and exploited to the fullest possible extent its secret preparedness in the instruments of destruction. Those were hard days when the best elements of the Empire applied their shoulders to the wheel, and with trust in God set their gaze on the future, with indomitable courage and conviction.

3. Today, thank God, the inspiring stand of England against the brutal Nazi air-raids and the brilliant victories of the Imperial and allied troops in Africa and Albania, in which the Indian troops have played such a magnificent part, have ushered in the first twilights of gratification, and we feel that we are entitld to share these rejoicings with the rest of the Empire.

4. Your Excellency, the heroic courage with which the peoples of Great Britain, men, women and children, have stood the brutal Nazi air-raids and bombing will, God willing, shine forth in the annals of history, as the turning point of this war and as the saviour of humanity. It has given us and the Empire a due cause for pride that the citadel of the Commonwealth and its great peoples have justified the highest traditions of their gallant history.

5. These grand achievements, however, reached a super-organisation due to inspiring leadership. The sinews of this war of nerves have been supplied by the inspiring example of their Imperial Majesties the King Emperor and the Queen Empress, and by that dauntless Soldier-Statesman, the Prime Minister of England.

6. The resolution before us reiterates the determination of the Indian Princes to continue to put forth their best efforts for the achievement of the final victory. This declaration, Your Excellency is aware, has already been translated in action. Large contingents of our troops are operating today in the various theatres of War. Streams of war equipment and materials have flown from the States for the successful prosecution of the War. The up-to-date collections from the States in cash, towards the various war purposes funds up to the end of January 1941 amounted approximately to Rs. 1,81,92,000 non-recurring, and Rs. 41,71,000 recurring. In addition, our contributions to the interest free bonds amount to Rs. 1,18,00,000 and to 3 per cent. Defence Bonds to Rs. 66,00,000. These figures are exclusive of the contributions in war investments made by the various Banks whose head offices are located in British India but whose branches operate in the States as well as in British India.

7. Your Excellency whatever be the sins of omission or commission attributed to the British Government in their treatment of India by their worst critics, surely no fairminded person can reasonably expect a better treatment from our enemies in the war to whom neither freedom, self determination nor upkeep of pledges is sacred. To my mind it would be a denial of the best traditions of the States and of the history of India, of which we are all proud, if in the face of this clarion call of duty from suffering humanity India faltered or hesitated. Moreover, it seems the intention and design of our enemies to offer a serious threat to the defence of our own motherland. This calls for earnest and serious preparedness before the crisis actually knocks at our doors. Let it be realised that when the drunken wrath of the brutal enemies of India and civilisation, in the Godless pursuit of their greed, crosses the frontiers of India, they would not yield to mere pious resolutions, nor would they discriminate between British India and the States or between any classes and creeds. As such; we cannot permit such a potential danger staring us in the face without fully preparing to avert it.

In view of these conditions, we of the Indian States have made our choice, and we stand united with our entire resources and with the chivalrous Rajputs, the gallant Sikhs, the brave Mussalmans, the fiery Gurkhas, the daring Marathas, the enduring Dogras, and others in our armies to repeat our best traditions of loyalty and sacrifice in support of His Imperial Majesty the King Emperor in the heroic struggle for the ordered progress of humanity and for the sanctity of treaties and covenants as also for the defence of our motherland.

8. Your Excellency, I wish to avail of this opportunity in requesting Your Excellency to be pleased to convey through the quarters concerned to our troops wherever they may be stationed, that we are proud of their achievements, that we shall anxiously follow their great marches, and that we shall regard it as sacred trust to look after their interests and dependents here.

9. Your Excellency, one word more and I have done. The present war will probably be a long one. We are prepared for it. There may be difficult times and periods of great anxiety ahead. But I am an optimist. I have faith in the solidarity of the British Commonwealth and of the allied nations. I trust that the heroic struggles of the Polish and the Finnish

nations have not been in vain. I have faith in the words of His Imperial Majesty in "the widespread attachment of India to the cause in which we have taken up arms". I have faith in the best neutral opinion in America and other countries asserting itself in the long run on the right side. And last but uppermost I have faith in the Divine Providence which must guide humanity from progress to progress.

His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses; I rise to second the resolution which has been moved by His Highness the Chancellor.

It is more than a year ago that the Nazi Rulers of Germany, inebriate with the lust for power, launched upon a mad and hectic career of tyranny and destruction. It is just about a year ago that the Princes of India gathered together in this historic hall to declare their determination to render every possible assistance in men, money and material to His Majesty's Government in their heroic struggle for the preservation of peace and justice. Since then the world has witnessed catastrophic and momentous changes; it has passed through darkest days of despair. The sudden collapse of France in quick succession to the surrender of the Netherlands and the fall of Belgium had led the world to believe that the end of civilisation and culture was near at hand. It was in those days of gloom and despair that the might of Britain came to be seen in its true perspective. The lightning-war on the Island Kingdom which the Nazi hordes desire to conquer and destroy has proved of no avail; led by a great Prime Minister, Britain has stood against the fiercest onslaughts, and struggled through devastation and despoil and demonstrated to the entire world the inner strength of British character and the immense reserve of mental power and determination of the men and women of Great Britain. The courage and fortitude displayed by the civil population of Britain in the face of the grim danger constitutes a living monument to the glory that is rightly associated with Great Britain, and a beacon light to the nations of the world.

Recent events in the middle East have equally proved the strength and might of the British Empire. The fall of Sidi Barrani, Bardia and Benghazi has become the signal of a momentous change in the position in which Great Britain found herself at the beginning of the last summer. Today the exploits and valiant deeds of the British and Indian soldiers on the farflung battle fields in the middle East have added strength and encouragement to all parts of the Empire. The brilliant victories of the Imperial Forces led by General Sir Arthur Wavell have made it clear to the world that the free nations of today are in a position to defend themselves against the gigantic preparations of the Axis powers. The gravity of the situation, however, still remains. Indeed, the danger to the independence and freedom of India is nearer to her frontiers and every one of us must fully realise that this war is our war no less than Great Britain's. All of us must be fully alive to the fact that in the victory of the British Arms lies our victory. Political manœuvres, constitutional bargaining and heedless fabrication of futile creeds can be of no avail when the existence of a nation is threatened and the ultimate issue of its life or death is joined. Your Highnesses, the destinies of the nations of the world are hanging in the balance; on us, on each one of us, depends the preservation and maintenance of our spiritual and cultural heritage; each one of us can contribute his share to the continuance of

our human civilization. It is, therefore, our sacred and solemn duty at this critical juncture to do all that lies in our power to assist His Majesty's Government in the successful prosecution of the war; I need hardly affirm that each one of us is determined to do so to the utmost of his resources.

With these few words I lend my fullest support to the resolution which has been placed before Your Highnesses by His Highness the Chancellor.

His Highness the Nawab of Bahawalpur: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses; It is with feelings of great pleasure that I rise to support the Resolution so ably moved by His Highness the Chancellor. In the grim struggle in which the Empire along with its allies is involved against a relentless foe, it is very heartening to find that the armies of the Empire supported by those of the Allies, true to their respective traditional devotion to duty and steadfast in their unflinching loyalty to a righteous cause for which they are fighting, should be showing their mettle and glorifying the pages of history with deeds of valour and heroism. The whirlwind-like and most unprecedented rapid advance made into Libya was indeed a very great strategic miracle perhaps without a parallel in the History of warfare of the past. This stupendous effort made by all arms under extremely difficult conditions and the happy and successful results of this mighty effort, are indeed most awe-inspiring and magnificent, bringing great credit to general Wavel's sagacity and farsightedness. I am sure we are all in agreement that the very recent announcement of the exalted awards bestowed by His Imperial Majesty our beloved King Emperor, on General Wavel and his colleagues are well deserved and well earned.

The steady progress in other sectors in Africa are also worthy of admiration the silent but magnificent work of the Royal Navy and above all the glorious record created by the Royal Air Force are deeds of which the Empire can be justly proud. It is a matter of great gratification that the Indian Troops have taken such an effective part in so many of these glorious actions, side by side with the forces of other components of the Great British Empire.

I might here add that I feel that few of us realise the significance of the great sacrifices being made by our Countrymen side by side with their brothers in arms from other parts of the Empire, as a result of which we are enjoying security and comforts of a normal life here. Our hearts go out in thankfulness and gratitude to the brave men of all Arms who have won victories and attained valiant success for the Empire and we heartily congratulate them on their well-gained achievements, which will it is our earnest prayer and sanguine hope, be the fore-runners of an ultimate and complete annihilation of and victory over the forces of darkness, evil and barbarism against which the Empire is engaged on a most righteous and just struggle.

His Highness the Maharawal of Dungarpur: I rise to support the resolution moved by His Highness the Chancellor. It is a resolution which voices the feelings of thankfulness present in the heart of every Indian. We are thankful to Providence that it has blessed with these victories the bravery, perseverance and determination of the Forces of the Empire and its Allies, the brilliant tactics of our military leaders, the skill and gallantry

of the Navy, the heroism and superior quality of the Air Force and the stupendous War Effort to which every part of the Empire has contributed its mite. From Great Britain, from Canada, from Australia, from New Zealand, from South Africa and from India—in short, from the ends of the earth—men volunteered their services to defend their homes and liberties and the communications of this far-flung Empire. The Indian Princes too, true to their tradition of loyalty to their beloved King-Emperor, have spontaneously responded to the call of duty. These combined efforts have been crowned with singular success and a process has been initiated which will surely end in the cracking up of Mussolini's ill-gotten Empire.

In Great Britain itself, though grievous losses mostly on civilian life and property have been inflicted, the spirit of the British People remains undaunted. It is to this spirit that the entire civilised world owes a deep debt and which is the object of such profound admiration. The bombing of Great Britain has, for certain, miserably failed in its boasted purpose of striking terror. The Island remains a fortress which can never be conquered and to the men and women of Britain the whole of Europe looks forward to redeem it from thraldom and misery. The matchless Royal Air Force has inflicted incomparably greater losses on enemy aircraft and, above all, the Grand Navy retains complete mastery of the Seas.

In this hour of trial, Great Britain is singularly fortunate in having at the helm of affairs a man whose genius and inspiring and forceful personality have galvanised the whole Empire. It is indeed a matter for thanksgiving that that soldier-statesman, the Right Honourable Winston Churchill, was destined to be the Prime Minister of Great Britain at so crucial a moment in the history of his great country. Never before were the issues at stake so immense; never before was the peril greater and no one has realised these vital issues more fully than the great American nation and its illustrious President.

I support this resolution in the unshakable faith that the twin menaces of the bomber and the submarine will be overcome, that the strangle-hold of the Navy and the tremendous hammerings of the Royal Air Force will shatter Hitler's power, that the day of reckoning will soon come when our Armies will march to final victory. God willing, all this will happen, all this must be made to happen.

His Highness the Maharaja of Dewas (Junior): Your Excellency; I rise to lend my whole-hearted and unqualified support to this resolution.

We all know the magnificent epic that has been enacted since the dark and evil days of Dunkirk. Many things of utmost bravery and supreme sacrifice, under the most exacting and trying circumstances, have happened since then. They constitute achievements to gladden our hearts and put life into the feeblest of us.

The brave people of Greece by their immense sacrifice of precious blood and possessions hold the brute at bay in Albania and Turkey stands firm, vigilant and strong on what to all practical purposes are our Frontiers today.

The people of England withstand a merciless battering of all that humanity holds near and dear with the utmost cheerfulness and cool courage, which has evoked a glorious tribute and admiration of the independent and competent observers from the old and the new world. With

unique tenacity and singleness of purpose the British Nation once again has put a new life into the defence of civilization under a desperate situation. All honour must be and is due to such a great nation which by its patience and courage has broken the potency of Hitler's most dangerous weapon, and has refused to surrender in a war of nerves which proved so formidable else-where. Their inspired self-possession and self-confidence has been responsible for giving essential breathing time to the forces of civilization to rearrange the defences on newer and better fronts. It is but fair to recognise and realise with gratefulness that we in India owe our safety and security to these brave people and their tremendous sacrifices in far off lands.

Our debt of gratitude is equally due to the great Navy which His Late Majesty had aptly characterised as a "sure shield" and to the brilliant deeds of the R. A. F. which to the great surprise of many a pessimist and to the utter disappointment of the Enemy, has by its superiority mastered the formidable Nazi nuisance.

The Imperial and the allied Troops, amongst whom it is extremely gratifying for us to note that the Indian Troops have played their prominent part so heroically and brilliantly, have in the meanwhile secured victories in Africa which might well prove to be the beginning of an end of the most wreckless, thoughtless and unscrupulous partner in the Axis conspiracy.

All these epics and brilliant achievements have led us a considerable way towards victory and safety and away from the dark days of the collapse of France. These are achievements of which all those, who hold humanity, civilization and peaceful existence dear, may legitimately feel proud and gratified. We are happily in a position today to observe and hope that the signs now definitely indicate that the most dangerous corner has been turned and perhaps turned for good and to the increasing delight and happiness of mankind.

We owe it to all those, whose tremendous sacrifices have achieved what indeed is a miracle and that we should record not only our appreciation but utmost gratefulness. Even so we cannot yet forget the famous dictum for which, I believe, Mr. Lloyd George was responsible at the most critical period of the last war, when under circumstances remarkably similiar, he had observed that "A war is not won till it is lost". The Prime Minister has also given us ample warning that this is no time to relax or rest, and we could do no better than to take heed and put forth our best efforts. To those who do not try to understand Britain and the British Empire, its unity in diversity and its dynamic character had always been somewhat of an enigma. To its enemies it has, over and over again, proved itself to be the bulwork of civilization and not the decadent disintegrating structure that Nazis conceived it to be.

In the past it baffled the predecessors of the Nazis and now that the Nazis have asked for it, I have every confidence that it would again prove the same to them in an unmistakable manner.

The Empire has a habit, undoubtedly unpleasant to its enemies, to produce the right man at the right moment. Such a personality in the present juncture readily jumped into the breach in the person of our dauntless Soldier-Statesman, Mr. Winston Churchill, because the crisis in the life of the nation and the Empire as well as human culture and

civilization demanded his services. Men, money and material awaited a personality with forceful vigour and necessary drive to mobilise the tremendous forces available, and to direct them into most useful and fruitful channels. True to its habits and traditions the Empire produced the right man, who converted what appeared to be a desperate and lost position into an advantage which gives all reasonable promise of a certain victory. It is our duty to convey our sincerest congratulations to the saviour of the peaceful and ordered existence of humanity on this globe.

Another unpleasant surprise for the enemies of the Empire is its habit to act as one man with an unique singleness of purposes. Indian Troops and the Princes rendered glorious services especially in the early days of the last war, which are still fresh and are remembered with gratefulness. These were described then as having been mainly instrumental in saving France. This war was different. It was, however, soon realised that bravery and devotion to the person and throne of His Majesty the King Emperor was not the monopoly of any single community, nation or colour. Our troops once again had an opportunity to take their honoured place in the defence of the common heritage created by the common bond of love of the Empire and all that it stands for. This commonwealth of ours does and will always stand for final victory of the forces of decency, morality, humanity and ordered existence over the evils of international aggression, lawlessness, brigandage and brutality that threaten the civilization of the world.

As a part of the peace-loving world, as an order that stands for those ideals and as an order that deems it an honour and a privilege to belong to that commonwealth, it is but natural and in the fitness of things that the Princes of India should reiterate their determination to continue to put forth their very best efforts without the least hesitation or relaxation till the final victory is achieved. And we are here today to record that determination of ours in the most unequivocal and unmistakable manner.

We do so not only because it is our clear duty but because it is our creed to support the common ideals. We offer help out of no selfish motives; we make no conditions precedent to our offer; we do not do so in the expectation of a reward. We do so and will continue to do what we see to be our duty and responsibility according to the plain dictates of commonsense and conscience. Princes like all others have critics and even enemies. The aristocracy in the country has been denounced and maligned in the most unbecoming and uncomplimentary terms, and yet in the times of crisis it is exactly these classes in India that have proved, over and over again, as the greatest bulwark and the mainstay of preservation of peace and stability of the society. Greater trust, larger confidence, sincere encouragement and appreciation will impart to these classes enlarged strength, forceful vigour and abundant and increasing capacity for greater service and efficient discharge of their duties towards the country, the Empire and His Majesty the King Emperor.

Whereas other parties have asked for a *quid-pro-quo* for whatever they do or promise to do, the instincts, chivalry, traditions and culture of the Princes have not permitted them to be dominated by the thoughts of return of their services. Theirs has been an attitude in the truest spirit of the teachings of Shree Bhagwat Gita “**“कर्मण्वाऽकारते मा कर्तुं कदाचन”**” “Duty for duty's sake and without concern or anxiety for the ultimate fruit”. They trust in the inevitable and indefeasible law

that no unselfish service goes unrewarded. Their services are untainted by selfish desire to gain advantage in exchange for their offer of help.

It, therefore, logically follows that in a civilized world or in that part of the world with which we are linked and which is fighting for the principles of justice, equity and liberty, when the time comes services cannot and ought not to be forgotten.

We are confident that ultimate victory is certain, but rest and relaxation cannot be contemplated till it is won. We can assert that in contributing to the victory we also establish our claim to share of the moral and material good that the victory will bring.

With trust in God, let us keep the powder dry, and march on with complete confidence towards victory. To so just a cause, to so glorious an ideal the ultimate victory cannot be denied.

With these words I support the resolution so ably moved by our Soldier-Ruler, His Highness the Chancellor.

His Highness the Raja of Mandi: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses, I deem it an honour and a matter of genuine pleasure to associate myself with this important Resolution.

It is for the second year that we are meeting under the grim shadows of a titanic struggle which has been forced on the peaceful peoples of the world by a system of government which has killed free-thinking and placed mind in bondage. It aims at the destruction of the grand edifice of civilisation, as we understand it, and which has been constructed by the thinkers and great men of all nations over a long period of many centuries with steady, continued and persevering hard labour and often in the face of adversity and hardship. The British Commonwealth of Nations, to which we have the honour to belong, with its great and resourceful allies, particularly the United States of America, are now the only custodians of liberty and democracy left in the world, who have accepted this challenge of rabid Nationalism of Germany and are determined to see that aggressive civilisation and the so-called New Order, which bereft of its trappings and slogans is nothing else but tyranny, or shall I say slavery, is not permitted to take a foothold in this world but instead sound foundations are laid for the establishment of real and abiding peace on basis of absolute equality and co-operation amongst all the nations of the world.

It is needless for me to trace the sequence of events after the collapse of France, our old and valued ally up-to-date, which are too well known to all, and it would suffice to say that despite every form of inhuman and ruthless activities those who unleashed these satanic forces of barbarism and which are a crime against humanity, are gradually finding their visions of resplendent victory fading away before their very eyes and the iron grip tightening round their throats. The Nazis made and are still making every effort to break the nerves of the British people by ruthless bombing of hospitals, churches, schools, historic buildings and dwelling houses, particularly of the poor people. The drunken wrath of the brutal enemy did not even spare to bomb the Imperial Residence, Buckingham Palace, but it is indeed very gratifying to know that Their Imperial Majesties, through the Grace of God, are safe. The fortitude and the admirable behaviour exhibited by men, women and even children of Great Britain and the excellent example set by them has not only been an eye

opener and an object lesson to all, but it has clearly brought out the greatness and the valiant character of the people who have shown firm determination to fight the enemy and subdue him. Our hearts and sympathies go out to those innocent people who have suffered and are still suffering unprecedented hardships and I have no doubt whatsoever in my mind, nor has there ever been any doubt, that their sufferings will in the end with the help of the Almighty be crowned with glorious and abiding success.

Although Mussolini's dreams of an African Empire have been shattered by the astounding victories won by that great General, Sir Archibald Wavell, and his valiant forces comprising the Imperial Army of the Nile and here I feel proud to recall the brilliant and magnificent part played by the Indian Troops including the forces from the States, that ancient cradle of civilization, I mean Greece, has also, by its heroic stand against Italy, resulting in miraculous victories given the founder of the Fascist movement, the Duce, many a sleepless night. The tentacles of this inhuman war are, as we all know, spreading eastward. The danger which had threatened India since the last few months is approaching nearer to our borders and it is the bounden duty of every true son and daughter of the motherland to contribute their humble mite in the mobilization of all the resources of India to fight the forces of aggression and tyranny with all the forces at our command. With the happenings in the Middle East and the impending threat to peace in the Far East, India our beloved country occupies a peculiarly significant position not only as a sentinel of the British Empire in the East, but also as a liberal supplier of men and material for the successful victory of the cause of justice, liberty and equality. India is rich in men and material and with the establishment of key industries both in British India and the States I have no doubt that our country will play a part worthy of its high traditions. The holding of the Eastern group Conference here at Delhi and the consequent establishment of an inter Imperial Supply Council constitute a striking illustration of the growing importance of India in the present war and the Empire in general.

When issues of wider application and long cherished principles are in danger, I am inclined to agree that nationalism must temporarily be allowed to merge in internationalism and the common danger averted by all in unison. The re-establishment of respect for the Law of Nations instead of the Law of the Jungle, is to my humble way of thinking a necessary pre-requisite for the healthy development of nationalism as correctly understood. Sir, India and the States are already playing a historic part in the war but it is my earnest desire and sincere hope as it is of all those who place the interests of India and the Empire above everything that people belonging to all shades of opinion will after appreciating and realising the force of circumstances lend their full weight and support in mobilizing the vast resources of this great country so that it may play its worthy part in maintaining its high traditions of chivalry and honour so well known in the annals of history. As far as the Indian Princes and their people are concerned, I need hardly say Sir, that we have resolved to spare no sacrifice, however, great to which we may be called upon in order to ensure the successful termination of the war.

In making spontaneous offers of placing the resources of the States and the personal services, we, the Rulers have I need hardly add no other

consideration whatsoever excepting the fulfilment of our sacred and cherished obligations to the Crown and our bounden duty towards the Empire and the motherland.

In conclusion I would like to add, Sir, that as for myself I am awaiting anxiously the time when an early opportunity would be afforded me to serve personally our beloved King and country in some theatre of war by fighting for the high principles for which this titanic struggle of all times is being waged.

H. E. The Crown Representative: Is it Your Highness' pleasure that the resolution be accepted?

The resolution was carried unanimously.

His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses, I now beg to commend the amendments to the First Regulations set out in the Appendix to the constitution of this Chamber as adumbrated in the resolution standing in my name. These amendments do not affect the principles or the substantive provisions of the Reorganisation Scheme of the Chamber of Princes, and are only intended to make the position clear in the light of the actual working of the Scheme. These amendments have been carefully considered by the Committee of Ministers, by the Standing Committee of Princes, and by the General Conference of Rulers and Representatives of States, and the resolution now proposed carries their general support.

2. Your Excellency, the amendments Nos. 1 and 2 make it clear that the special constituency to which they relate is intended to be reserved for the Maritime States as they represent a special interest. Amendment 3 is sought to fill the locuna in the existing regulations with regard to bye-elections in the évent of vacancies during the normal tenure of office of the Committee. Amendment No. 4 provides for replacement of one member of the Ministers Committee by another at the instance of the individual ruler or the group of rulers who appointed him. The first two proposals under amendment No. 5 are only formal and make the position clearer. The additional note proposed under amendment No. 5, provides that in case of States under minority or administration the consent of the Government of the State concerned shall be treated as the consent of the Ruler for the purposes of this sub-clause, but it shall be subject to revocation by the Ruler concerned on the termination of such administration.

Amendment No. 6 provides for bye-elections in the Committee of Ministers to fill the vacancies during the normal tenure of the Committee. Amendment No. 7 provides for the return of 3 Representatives, by the Rulers of the Eastern States and Manipur and Sikkim, from their constituency which originally returned 2 members. The reason for this increased representation is given in the Reorganisation Scheme itself. When the original Scheme was passed, the question of the enlargement of the Chamber was still under consideration, and a proviso was inserted that in the event of 15 or more States from this region being admitted as new members of the Chamber, an additional seat shall be given to this constituency. Under the enlargement of the Chamber, 10 States from Bihar and Orissa and 9 States from the Central Provinces whose Rulers have been admitted recently as Members of the Chamber of Princes in their

own right, have been included in this constituency. The amendment now proposed is therefore consequential. Amendment No. 8 is sought to obviate the necessity for the Ruler proposing a name for the election of the Chancellor or the Pro-Chancellor to get it signed on the nomination paper by a seconder. Amendment No. 9 is formal.

I now beg to move the resolution standing in my name which may be taken as read:

"The Chamber of Princes recommends to His Excellency the Crown Representative that the following amendments may be made in the First Regulations set out in the Appendix to the Constitution of this Chamber:—

1. In sub-clause (iii) of Regulation 1 in Part II of the said Regulations the words "The Maritime States of" may be inserted at the beginning of the said clause.

2. In sub-clause (iii) of Regulation 1 in Part V of the said Regulations the words "The Maritime States of" may be inserted at the beginning of the said clause.

3. The following proviso may be added at the end of Regulation 4 in Part II of the said Regulations, namely,

"Provided that any vacancy occurring on the Standing Committee will be filled by the Rulers concerned in accordance with the Regulations for ordinary elections."

4. The following additional sub-clause may be inserted at the end of Regulation 1 in Part V of the said Regulations as sub-clause (2), namely,

"A member appointed on the Committee of Ministers by a certain Ruler will be liable to be replaced by another member at the discretion of the Ruler concerned, and a member representing a group of States will be liable to be replaced if the majority of the Rulers of the group concerned or the Ruler who gave consent to the member concerned being originally included in the panel, give intimation of the desired change in writing to the Chancellor. In the latter case, the seat vacated shall be filled in accordance with the Regulations by the same Group which elected the member vacating the seat."

5. In sub-clause (a) of Regulation 2 in Part V of the said Regulations—

(i) the following words may be inserted between the words 'suggest' and 'names', namely, :—

"to the Secretary of the Chamber of Princes";

(ii) the following words may be added at the end of this sub-clause, namely, :—

"The list of the names proposed shall be forwarded within a week of the specified date to the Chancellor."

(iii) the following Note may be added at the end of this sub-clause as amended, namely, :—

- “In the case of a State under administration on account of minority or for any other reason the consent of the Government of the State concerned shall be treated as the consent of the Ruler for the purposes of this sub-clause but it shall be subject to revocation by the Ruler concerned on the termination of such administration.”
6. The following proviso may be added at the end of Regulation 5 in Part V of the said Regulations, namely:—
- “Provided that any vacancy occurring during the normal term of office of the Committee will be filled in accordance with the Regulations for ordinary elections by the same group which elected the member vacating the seat.”
7. For sub-clause (*xi*) of Regulation I in Parts II and V of the said Regulations, the following may be substituted, namely:—
- “(xi) The remaining Eastern States with Manipur and Sikkim shall form a separate constituency returning three members.”
8. In Rule 2 of the Rules set out in Appendix A to the said Regulations the following words may be deleted, namely:—
- which shall also be signed and seconded by another member of the Princes’ Standing Committee.”
9. In Rule 1 of the Rules set out in Appendix B to the said Regulations the following words may be inserted between the words ‘name,’ and ‘at’ namely:—
- “to the Secretary of the Chamber”.
- and the following sentence added at the end of this Rule, namely:—
- “The list of the names proposed shall be forwarded within a week of the specified date to the Chancellor”.

The Raja of Bhor: Your Excellency and Your Highnesses; I deem it a proud privilege to have to rise to do the very pleasant duty of seconding the Resolution moved by His Highness the Chancellor. His Highness, the mover of the Resolution, has in his well-informed and aptly worded speech made so clear, able and convincing an exposition of the points embodied in the Resolution, that, I think, I can add very little to what has been so lucidly laid by him before Your Highnesses, beyond saying a few formal words by way of seconding the same.

Your Highnesses will easily see that the amendments proposed to be made to the various regulations appended to the constitution of the Chamber of Princes and to the reorganisation scheme contain no controversial matter whatsoever. Besides, deep thought has been bestowed upon them by the Standing Committee as well as the General Conference of the Chamber of Princes. The amendments proposed are intended to rectify some of the slips that inadvertently remained there or were found to have crept in at the time of the revision of the constitution. These deficiencies came to light when the revised constitution began actually to function and hence the amendments to fill in the same. The amendments, one and all, being thus only a measure ancillary to or consequential for making clear the position of the new scheme of reorganisation are quite self-explanatory; and as, Your Highnesses will readily appreciate, require no further or detailed elucidation from me.

I have therefore the greatest pleasure in associating myself with His Highness the Maharaja Jamsaheb in seconding the Resolution put before the House for acceptance.

H. E. the Crown Representative: Is it Your Highness' pleasure that the resolution be passed?

Carried unanimously.

His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses,

I rise to move the following resolution which stands in my name:—

“This Chamber recommends to His Excellency the Crown Representative that in order to further enhance the value of the war effort of the States and of India as a whole, necessary action may be taken with the least possible delay with a view to associate the representatives of the States with the War activities at the Centre, through reviving the proposal for the establishment of the War Advisory Council with representatives of the States and of the Provincial Governments or through some other suitable alternative to be evolved in consultation with the States”.

2. I wish to make it clear, at the very outset, that this resolution is not intended to be a condition precedent of our co-operation for the successful prosecution of the War. The Indian Princes have made it clear that their readiness to make every possible contribution for the progress of the war, is both spontaneous and unconditional. At the same time, we deem it a duty to state our firm conviction, based on a most careful consideration of the situation in India and abroad, that it is imperative in order to further enhance the value of the War effort of the States and of India as a whole, to take necessary steps with the least possible delay on the lines indicated in this resolution.

3. Your Excellency has been pleased to appreciate in the course of your address to the Chamber, the natural concern of the Indian States, in view of the extent and the importance of their co-operation in war effort to play the utmost possible part in the various organisations to co-ordinate war work. The exigencies of the situation demand, in our opinion, that this liaison of the States with the war effort at the Centre particularly in the spheres of Defence, supplies, and industries may be ensured, on a regular basis and not through *ad hoc* committees set up for specific purposes. It would further be appreciated and I state this fact without implying any slur on the personal element involved, that the Government of India as at present constituted can only speak for British India. As such, while British India may be said to have liaison with the war activities at the Centre, through the Government of India, the States are out of the picture. We request that in the best interests of British India States and the Empire, such a state of affairs should not be allowed to continue any longer. Nor should any arguments be needed to establish the utility of the proposal embodied in this resolution. The advisability of setting it up at this juncture, has already been recognised in principle on behalf of His Majesty's Government in Your Excellency's declaration of the 8th August, 1940. We were invited to avail of that

offer, we agreed to do so. Thereafter, as Your Excellency will appreciate, it has been somewhat embarrassing, for those co-operating in War effort, to be told that their spontaneous and unconditional co-operation would not qualify them to association in the inner Councils of war effort at the Centre, till such time as certain non-co-operating elements in the country decide to come in the picture.

4. Your Excellency, the Indian Princes genuinely share and whole-heartedly sympathise with Your Excellency's difficulties at the present juncture. We have no desire whatsoever to add to them. As such, we would not make the request embodied in this resolution but for our firm conviction that our request is not unreasonable and in fact is likely to help in the progress of the war and in evolving in the long run, that right atmosphere in the country for which Your Excellency has worked so hard and so earnestly.

5. The proposal embodied in this resolution should not be misunderstood by any fairminded and patriotic individual in this country. The war effort of India as a whole continues, and continues in a measure which has deservedly received the encouraging appreciation of His Imperial Majesty in his gracious message to India. Even some of those elements in India who have not yet made up their mind to lend whole-hearted and active co-operation for the prosecution of the war, have made no secret of their abhorrence of the Nazi principles and practices. Moreover the proposed association of the representatives of the Governments of the Provinces and the States, in facing a common enemy, may help to sow the seeds of the greater India on enduring and constructive foundations.

6. The wordings of the resolution show that we are not wedded to any particular form in which the desired liaison of the States may be secured. We have left it to Your Excellency's discretion and we would strongly urge that the proposal may be given a trial, if so desired, even on an experimental basis for a short period in the first instance.

With these words, I beg to commend this resolution for the acceptance of this Chamber as also for Your Excellency's most sympathetic consideration.

His Highness the Nawab of Rampur: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses; I have great pleasure in seconding the Resolution so ably moved by His Highness the Chancellor. In these critical times the first concern of every Ruler is to do his utmost towards the successful prosecution of the war and with this end in view the States have put their administrations on a war basis. In these circumstances the setting up of a machinery which will make the States' War Effort more effective and fruitful will, I feel sure, commend itself to all. It is obvious that India's War Effort should be co-ordinated as a whole and as far as the States are concerned this object will not be fully achieved unless their Representatives are given an opportunity of coming into regular contact with those in the Government of India who have been entrusted with the direction and administration of matters such as Defence and Supply. This question received the attention of His Excellency the Crown Representative last year but certain difficulties prevented the setting up of the requisite machinery. I have every hope that this Resolution will receive His Excellency's sympathetic consideration.

His Highness the Maharaja of Dewas (Junior): Your Excellency; I have great pleasure in supporting this very important resolution.

There is nothing so important at the present juncture than to co-ordinate all the best efforts of the country towards one and the only supreme objective of winning the war, and the need to bend all our energies towards that end in an ordered and organised manner is not the least part of it.

The position so far has been that each one of the Princes has been doing his best, but no opportunity to do things in a concerted manner has been available. Such a position has been deficient in that it has left the Princes under the necessity of working in a disjointed manner. I do not imply thereby that there have been no efforts, nor that there have not been sufficient efforts, Their Highnesses, I am certain, have been doing their best. But working as a part of an organisation would probably bring more satisfaction and perhaps stimulate efforts further. What we desire in fact is to do more and to feel that we do it ourselves.

We have a desire to be in the picture, to be associated with the efforts from day to day, to be able to associate in the plan and the play of the game itself. The Princes on their part will, I have no doubt, be willing to share the responsibility and the burden that their place and position in the future evolution of India demands and involves. They wish to have the satisfaction that they were the architects who took their legitimate part in the building of the future, and were not as if they were guests merely invited for the occasion. We all know that the Crown and the Princes are of one mind, but the mind needs a vehicle and medium through which it can act before actions result in giving satisfaction.

What is generally felt is that the mind has not got such a vehicle, and it is hoped that the establishment of an Advisory Council will provide it.

When the formation of the Advisory Council was announced by Your Excellency, the Princes supported the idea whole-heartedly. But the idea was abandoned because certain political parties in British India took what, in the judgment of many of us, is a perverse attitude with regard to war and war efforts. They deemed it fit to advance impossible conditions over irrelevant issues. Even they themselves sometimes appear to admit the utter futility and irrationality of their propositions in the face of common danger and of the atmosphere of Nazi aggression, and yet they do not see the commonsense or the rationality to fight that order before they resort to bargaining.

Neither the war nor the war efforts could stop because of their recalcitrance, but to the disappointment of a great many, the idea of War Advisory Council was suspended and an useful opportunity of association in the war efforts was lost for no fault of the Princes whatever.

We are not alone in thinking that certain parties in British India have come to consider that they alone matter in India and that this attitude has received more encouragement than is due. They are parties with influence and organisation, but they are not India, and the Princes are not to the least of a party interested in the future of the country. In this connection the recent observations of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru are worthy of serious and careful consideration.

If, on that account, so eminent a politician as Sir Tej Bahadur does not consider the withdrawal of certain proposals in British India as justified, I am most reluctantly constrained to observe that there is infinitely less reason for the proposal for the Advisory Council to have been withdrawn. The Princes suffer unduly in such matters and *vis-a-vis* the Princes the parties in British India appear to have been given altogether a disproportionate importance and weight. Such recalcitrance does not deserve the high premium that it appears to claim.

The Princes have no desire to deny any party in British India its legitimate influence nor to challenge their undoubted right to hold their own opinions. We have no desire to disturb their notions as to how they desire to develop their constitutional future or the manner and the method of it. But when vital issues like the war, or war efforts are involved or for the matter of that, any issue of common concern or action is involved we must and do claim that they must not be permitted to deny the legitimate position and influences of the Princes. Their deficient outlook, conception or ideas must not be permitted to over-rule the Princes in vital matters. Association of the Princes on the War Advisory Council was an idea on which we fundamentally differed, and the idea has been dropped in view of the difficulties of getting the dominant political parties to associate with it, we like to take the liberty to record that progress on so vital a matter should not be held up, because the leaders of these parties fail to accept them unless their impossible demands are satisfied, or until such time as they should be pleased to take a saner view of things.

If the leaders of the parties in British India will not shoulder their burdens that is no reason to prevent others from doing so.

This is our reason for the desire expressed in this resolution. When one of these parties refused to do their constitutional duty and threw up their responsibility in the Provinces, it was not deemed necessary to wait, and an alternative was found. Why? because the King's Government had to be carried on, because the running of it could not be deferred or postponed to suit the convenience of the unreasoning gentlemen at the head of the various political parties. War and war efforts no less than the King's Government deserve to be carried on, and if an alternative could be found to run the Provincial Governments an expedient by which such Governments could associate with the War Advisory Council surely should not be beyond our ingenuity. This resolution expresses our ideas, our anxieties and our desires and in this respect I have every hope and confidence that it will receive sympathetic and anxious consideration.

I, therefore, commend it to the House for its acceptance.

H. E. the Crown Representative: Is it Your Highness' pleasure that this resolution be passed?

Carried unanimously.

His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses; I now rise to present a review of the last year's work.

2. This year has been one of ceaseless activities with regard to various committees which met during the course of the year. The Committee of Ministers met three times, and both by the quality and quantity of its output has amply justified our expectations. The proceedings of the meetings of

the Ministers Committee are proof of the thoroughness and devotion with which our tried and trusted Ministers have applied themselves to the various important and delicate problems taken up at the meetings of the Committee. Their recommendations have been of real assistance to the Standing Committee, and a source of constructive service to the States. For this I wish to record my personal obligations to the Committee of Ministers and in particular to its distinguished Chairman, the Right Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari whose advice and assistance has been a source of real strength to me.

3. In addition to the Committee of Ministers the following special committees met and examined various questions in the course of the year:—

- (1) Special Committee of Ministers on the question of retrocession of jurisdiction over railway lands in Indian States.
- (2) Special Committee of Ministers on the Indian Opium Policy so far as it affects the Indian States.
- (3) Indian States Military Officers Committee.
- (4) Special Committee of Rulers on Civil List.
- (5) Special Committee of Ministers on Propaganda.
- (6) Special Committee of Ministers on the revision of the Aitchison's Treaties.
- (7) Special Committee of Rulers on Propaganda.

Their valuable reports have been made available to the States in most cases, and are receiving active consideration in other cases. The spirit of devotion and service shown by the members of the various committees, often at great personal inconvenience, entitle them to our sincerest thanks.

4. Much solid work had to be done in the course of the year in order to co-ordinate the individual war efforts of the States through collection of necessary data and information on the subject. Moreover the special requirements of the States in connection with their war efforts were represented personally by me to Your Excellency and I take this opportunity of acknowledging with gratitude the prompt and sympathetic consideration which Your Excellency lent to many points suggested on behalf of the States.

5. The year under report has recorded much useful activities in the sphere of administrative reforms and beneficent activities in the States. The following figures worked out on the basis of authentic information received from the States in reply to my circulars on the subject, speak for themselves and are indeed very gratifying:—

"States with 87·4" of the total population of States who are members of the Chamber of Princes have got local bodies in their territories, States with 67·9 per cent of population have got Legislative Assemblies, out of which 35·3 per cent have majority of elected members and 3·9 per cent have equality of elected and nominated members of the Assemblies, States representing 53·2 per cent of the total population of Chamber States have recently appointed committees to examine the question of further association of the subjects with administration, 89·9 per cent of the population have already got the

benefit of High Courts, 1·3 per cent more population are getting High Courts shortly. States representing 93·3 per cent of the total population have efficient Police force supervised by competent officers. The general incidence of taxation in the States has also been compared with and found lower than that of the adjoining British Indian Provinces. We do not claim perfection for all the States administrations, at the same time the aforesaid statement of facts would show to all fairminded persons that the Indian States are not anachronisms in the conception of a progressive State, and that our administrations are based on a rule of law associated with growing beneficent activities.

6. The Indian States Forces Scheme, 1939 and allied matters have been further examined by the Committee of Military Officers of States, by the Committee of Ministers and by the Standing Committee of Princes. In accordance with their recommendations, the Political Department was addressed on the subject and a detailed memorandum was received giving its views on the different points raised. This memorandum was circulated to the States concerned and discussed by the Standing Committee of Princes, and a detailed memorandum explaining outstanding points of doubt and difficulty has been prepared and forwarded to the Department concerned to serve as a basis for joint discussion.

7. The Standing Committee held two informal meetings and one meeting with the Political Secretary. Substantial work was done at these meetings. The more important items taken up by the Standing Committee in the course of the year are as follows:—

8. The question of the clear-the-line telegrams was taken up with a view to remove some of the existing difficulties and anomalies. Our memorandum on this subject has been examined by the department concerned of the Government of India and there is good prospect of the existing anomalies being removed so far as clear-the-line telegrams are concerned. Our thanks are due to the Crown Department and the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs for their sympathetic appreciation of our view points regarding the clear-the-line telegrams and we hope and trust that some satisfactory solution will also be found regarding clear-the-line telephones.

9. The Standing Committee have also given anxious and detailed consideration to the various difficulties arising out of the Indian Income-Tax (Amendment) Act so far as it affects the States. The matter is still under negotiations and we trust that a far-sighted appreciation of each others viewpoint by British Indian and the States may help to find a solution of this question which otherwise threatens serious complications of double taxation and may even retard the natural growth of business on both sides.

10. It has been notified that resolutions dated the 9th December 1922 and the 22nd September 1923, laying down the procedure for the acquisition of residential and non-residential property in British India by Ruling Princes and Chiefs, their near relatives and the notables of the States have been cancelled. This means that in future these matters will be regulated by the provincial Governments concerned. The Standing Committee has taken up the question of maintaining the *status quo* with regard to the existing rights of States in such properties as have already been acquired in British India.

11. In accordance with the recommendations of the Ministers Committee endorsed by the Standing Committee of Princes, the Crown Department has been addressed in detail so that the long pending question of the retrocession of jurisdiction over railway lands in Indian States may be settled without further delay independently of the question of constitutional changes.

12. The question of Memorial rules was taken up with the Crown Department and the deletion of various points which are regarded as unsuitable from the point of view of the States was urged and the points raised by us are receiving careful consideration.

13. The question of the eligibility of Indian States subjects for service in British India was also examined. The present position in regard to this matter is that a certificate of eligibility is necessary before any individual subject of a State can be employed under the Central Government though no such certificate is required for candidates from the provinces. With a view to remove the disabilities under which the subjects of Indian States labour in this matter, the opinion of the Committee of Ministers was invited, and they recommended that general declaration of eligibility may be secured for the States subjects for appointments under the Central Government and the Secretary of State, so that State subjects might not be discriminated against so far as these appointments were concerned. The matter has been taken up with the Crown Department and is being examined in consultation with the appropriate departments of the Government of India.

14. The existing policy in regard to the appointment of Courts of Arbitration for the settlement of disputes regarding matters affecting Indian States is embodied in Resolution No. 427-R, dated the 29th October 1920 and Resolution No. 224-P, dated the 3rd November 1926. As these two resolutions needed revision and amendment in the interests of the States, the matter was referred to the Committee of Ministers who made certain specific recommendations for amendment. These were endorsed by the Standing Committee of Princes and were taken up with the Political Secretary.

15. The question of right claimed by the railway administrations in the matter of quarrying stones and other minerals from railway lands in Indian States was also discussed with the Political Secretary, and the discussion centered round an amendment made by the Railway Board in paragraph 738 of the Railway Code without reference to the States about fifty years after the original resolution was issued when it has been acted upon for years by the parties concerned. The view point of the States in this matter was appreciated, and it was decided that it may be taken up with the Railway Board.

16. The attention of the Political Department was invited to the fact that under Section 4 of the Reserve Bank Act the Rulers of Indian States were not eligible to hold shares in the Bank. It was explained by the Political Secretary that Section 4 of the Act being a contentious one the Finance Department were unwilling to take up the question at present. The matter is, however, under consideration with a view to amend the Section at a suitable occasion in future so as to remove the disqualification of the Rulers.

17. In view of the fact that out of the 26 new members recently admitted as members of the Chamber of Princes in their own right only

6 enjoy gun salutes, it was suggested to the Political Secretary that the privilege of arms licenses granted to salute Rulers should be extended to all members of the Chamber. This and other matters raised are still under the consideration of the Crown Department.

18. This concludes the review of the main work done during the year. The results are fruits of joint efforts for which I wish to offer my grateful thanks to Your Excellency, as our President, and to my colleagues of the Standing Committee. During the greater part of the year under review my friend Hon'ble Sir Bertrand Glancy was the Secretary of the Chamber; and I am beholden to him for much valuable advice and assistance and the best wishes of this Chamber accompany him to his now exalted sphere of duties. He has been succeeded by Hon'ble Sir Francis Wylie as Political Adviser and by Sir Kenneth Fitze as Secretary to the Chamber. Both these officers are tried friends of the States and we confidently hope that their tenure of office would be of real assistance to Your Excellency and the States. I am obliged to them and to the Deputy Secretary and to their department for valuable co-operation. I wish also to record my appreciation of the valuable assistance which I received throughout the year from the Chancellor's Secretariat under the able guidance of my Secretary.

His Highness the Nawab of Rampur: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses; I am happy that the privilege of proposing a hearty vote of thanks to His Highness the Jam Saheb of Nawanagar, our able and popular Chancellor, has fallen to my lot this year. The high esteem and regard in which he is held by his brother Princes was strikingly evinced by his unanimous election as Chancellor soon after the re-organisation of the Chamber. The trust reposed in him by the Rulers of all categories of States has been fully justified by his able handling of the affairs of our Order and by his untiring devotion to our interests. It has been my good fortune to serve under him on the Standing Committee of the Chamber and I have been greatly impressed not only by his own tremendous capacity for work but even more by the wonderful he possesses of getting the best out of others. Everyone knows His Highness to be a most charming and genial Prince but those who have worked with him in the Chamber also know that when work has to be done he can be a positive tyrant. It is this combination of qualities which has been responsible for his outstanding success as our Chancellor. We have heard from His Highness an account of all that he has done in the last twelve months and I am sure that we all agree that this constitutes a fine record of achievement. Without going into details I should like to make particular mention of the untiring energy which he has displayed in the furtherance of the States' War Effort and of the successful manner in which he has handled the finances of the Chamber which have never been in a more satisfactory condition.

I have great pleasure in moving this Resolution.

His Highness the Maharaja of Dewas (Junior): Your Excellency and Your Highnesses; I rise to do what is my very pleasant duty. It gives me very great pleasure to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the able mover of the resolution in respect of our popular Chancellor.

I am sure everybody in this House agrees that our Chancellor fully deserves the description "popular" in every sense of the term, and that it is no formal compliment to him when we use the term.

Those like myself, who have had the privilege in closely associating with him and have been able to watch our Chancellor at work, know that his task is no bed of roses, and a person of lesser abilities and calibre would not be equal to it with anything like his tact, efficiency and success.

The work involved has been laborious, arduous, delicate and intricate, and our Chancellor has had to work at it day and night. Many a time the work has proved so taxing and exacting that a lesser person would have quailed at the prospect of it, but with his phenomenal energy and wonderful store of patience His Highness has made it appear light and pleasurable and has given it his undivided energies and ungrudging support.

There have been occasions when supreme courage and tact was required to carry the matters through; there have been occasions when considerable personal risk and even unpleasantness had to be faced, but like a true soldier that he is, His Highness braved them with determination and courage which does great credit to His Highness' devotion to the cause of the Princely Order.

Sauvity, affability, good-temperedness and unexceptionably pleasing manners have always made it a pleasure to work under his able guidance and leadership and a privilege to work for him. The atmosphere of mutual trust and confidence inspired by him has been unique and completely friendly.

He has been able to do this because he was a nephew to some and uncle to others, and even more than this because he has been a brother of all and a true and willing servant of the Order.

In His Highness the Jam Saheb we have a Chancellor the period of whose tenure of office will always be remembered as a brilliant landmark in the history of the Chamber to guide those that may be coming after him as a model of perfect Chancellorship. He is not only popular, but a truly great Chancellor and the Princely Order has been extremely fortunate in having him to conduct its affairs and to guide its destiny at the most critical, delicate and exceptional period of its history. His services have been so valuable, priceless and eminent that no words can adequately describe them.

I would, therefore, associate myself with the vote of thanks proposed with whole-heartedness and with the utmost pleasure.

His Highness the Raja of Mandi: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses; I consider it a matter of special privilege and honour to associate myself again this year with this resolution which has been so ably moved and seconded. The year which has rolled by and has been full of important happenings, has again shown that in our popular Chancellor we have a person with untiring energy, and who, in spite of the indifferent health which he has unfortunately enjoyed for some time past, though we are most relieved that he has fully recovered now, leaves no stone unturned in safeguarding the interests of the Princely Order and the States. It has been my proud privilege to work with His Highness in close association

in the Standing Committee of the Princes for the past few years, and I have always found him appreciative of opposing views and opinions. His great tact and inspiring leadership are not only well known but a valuable asset to us all, and I have every hope that His Highness will continue to guide and lead us in spite of the great strain involved in this work through the critical times through which we are passing and the difficult years which lie ahead of us.

His Highness the Raja of Sangli: Your Excellency, Your Highnesses; it is a genuine pleasure to me to have this opportunity to support the vote of thanks which His Highness the Nawab of Rampur has so ably moved in recognition of the excellent work that His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar has done as Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes. I whole-heartedly associate myself with the warm tributes that have been paid to His Highness by Their Highnesses who have preceded me, and I join in the gratitude conveyed by them to His Highness the Chancellor on behalf of the Chamber for his valuable services. The duties and responsibilities of the exalted office of the Chancellor of the Chamber are always onerous and exacting. They have been all the more so during the year that has concluded on account of the many pressing and vital problems which the world war has brought in its train. No words of mine are needed to bring home to Your Excellency and to Your Highnesses the energy, the wisdom and the statesmanship with which His Highness has guided the affairs of the Chamber during these most critical days. The record of His Highness' work, which has earned the appreciation of Your Excellency is entitled to the deep gratitude of the Order of Princes. It testifies to His Highness' catholic zeal in the interests of the States that from the midst of his cares on account of the important problems of the war which have engaged his attention His Highness should have found time to strengthen the solidarity of the Order of Princes by the present enlargement of the Chamber. The Princes who have been admitted as members of the Chamber in their own right will always remain under a lasting debt of gratitude to His Highness. His Highness has shown that the reins of the Chamber of Princes will be safe in his custody at this critical juncture in our history. I am sure Your Highnesses will pass with acclamation this vote of thanks to our popular Chancellor.

His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar: I feel overwhelmed by the generous terms of reference made about my work, but if I may be permitted, I would like to say that the credit is due to my brother Princes on the Standing Committee and the Ministers' Committee *in toto*. I take the credit, they do the work and I hope that will be remembered. Thanks.

His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar: Your Excellency, we desire at the outset to express our gratitude for the welcome which you have so kindly extended to us, and to thank Your Excellency for the courtesy with which you have listened to us and presided over our deliberations.

2. We are grateful to Providence that the anxieties which weighed upon so many of us and on our people, due to severe famine conditions particularly in Rajputana and Kathiawar, have been alleviated in so marked a degree. The provision of adequate relief for the afflicted areas is the primary function of the governments of the States concerned; and

it has been gratifying to learn, from Your Excellency's independent judgment, that the Governments of all the important States concerned have made full and liberal use of their resources, and have devised widespread and well organised plans for the relief of the sufferers.

3. Your Excellency made a reference in your opening address to the memorable words spoken by His Imperial Majesty the King Emperor in his recent gracious message, regarding the war efforts of the States, and you were pleased to express appreciation of the lead given by the Princes by precept and by example and of the value of our co-operation in the progress of the war. Our spontaneous assistance in this matter, Your Excellency is aware, has been given in no conventional or bargaining spirit. It means to us the fulfilment of our obligations to the Crown which are our sacred heritage, and which we on our part are determined to maintain. We request that this expression of our devotion be conveyed to His Imperial Majesty for his gracious message to India. We are particularly grateful for the inspiring statement made by His Majesty that he knows that he can rely more surely in the hour of trial on the loyalty of the Indian Princes. We wish respectfully to reassure His Majesty that we are determined to spare nothing that we can offer, till the war is won and the cause of sanctity of treaties and the ordered progress of humanity is fully vindicated. Our only complaint, as stated by Your Excellency, is that the opportunities of service, and particularly of personal service, have fallen short of our own ardent desires.

4. We are glad to note that Your Excellency appreciates the natural concern of the States, in view of the extent and the importance of their co-operation in the progress of the war, to play the utmost possible part in the various organizations at the Centre to co-ordinate and to develop war effort. We gratefully appreciate that Your Excellency has been at pains to keep in contact with the Chancellor and other leading Princes, and to keep the Indian States in close touch with current events of importance.

5. We welcome whole-heartedly the location in India of the Supply Council of the Eastern Group, and offer, to the distinguished representatives on it, the fullest possible co-ordination of the States for the important work entrusted to this Council. We also note that it has not been found possible, in view of the limitation of numbers, to accord separate representation to the Indian States. At the same time, Your Excellency, as Crown Representative, will doubtless appreciate that, without implying any reflection on the personal element involved, the Government of India as at present constituted can only speak for British India. Nevertheless, the States are co-operating and will continue to co-operate to their utmost capacity with the war effort of the Empire, because of their obligations to the Crown and the cause at stake; but we trust that our desire, not to raise any controversial issues during the war, will not be interpreted as an acquiescence in any special arrangements which may be made to cope with the present crisis. The fact however remains that while British India has been associated with the war effort at the Centre, through the Government of India, there is no such liaison with the States as a whole. We feel convinced, after most anxious consideration, that it is necessary to take suitable steps, without any further delay, and on the lines indicated in the resolution passed today by this Chamber, to establish liaison at the Centre with the representatives of the States and of the Provincial Governments. We are further convinced that the object in view requires

constant and close collaboration, and cannot adequately be met through *ad hoc* committees appointed from time to time for specific purposes. We feel confident that such a step will serve the best interests of the Indian States as well as of British India, and would help to enhance the value of India's co-operation in the war.

6. Your Excellency, we have constantly before us the many and varied problems which have inevitably arisen, and which will continue to arise, from the close association of the Indian States Forces with His Majesty's Forces. We have had to examine the Indian States Forces Scheme 1939, in an atmosphere of war, and we felt it our duty not to raise any big controversial matters which might be found inconvenient to meet during these special circumstances. We realise fully the relation of the test of active service to the present system. As such, we would welcome a clear indication that the whole question of the organization of the Indian States Forces will be open to reconsideration, at the conclusion of and in the light of the experiences in the war, in the friendly spirit in which the problem of Imperial Service Troops was reviewed after the last war. In the meantime, we have forwarded to the quarters concerned, a memorandum on the problems which yet remain jointly to be surveyed and we confidently hope that the farsighted imagination and constructive drive characteristic of His Excellency the new Commander-in-Chief, whose appointment we take this opportunity of whole-heartedly welcoming, will lead before long to a satisfactory solution. Your Excellency should need no assurance that we ask to approach these problems so that their eventual solution shall be that best fitted to serve the interests of India as a whole and to secure her against external aggression. We accordingly desire that the efforts already initiated may be pursued in a spirit of confidence, so that the defences of India placed on a firm basis, and the resources of this great country are utilised to the fullest advantage not only for defending her own frontiers, and for the discharge of the Crown's obligations under the Treaties, but also for helping the British people and the Empire common cause.

7. Your Excellency has been pleased to mention in your Address, that the mighty conflict in which we are now engaged must inevitably have reactions of profound importance on all countries and not least on India herself. We fully appreciate this, and are prepared to face the future with courage, faith and conviction. We realise, as stated by Your Excellency, that we are fighting for the cause of human freedom, and we also know that no ordered basis of human society can be sustained which does not rest on the scrupulous maintenance and upkeep of sacred covenants and pledges.

8. Your Excellency, the Indian Princes are not averse to the ordered progress of India. On the other hand, they are publicly associated with the desire to secure for India the fullest freedom and the highest status under the aegis of the British Crown. Our position in the matter has been clearly stated in the resolutions adopted by this Chamber. We wish, however, to avoid raising any big controversial matters during the present crisis and to concentrate all energies on the main purpose of the successful prosecution of the war. We have accordingly decided not to pass any formal resolution this year on the political situation in India so far as it affects the States. At the same time, we whole-heartedly welcome the declaration made by Your Excellency on the 8th August 1940, and its elucidation in the

House of Commons by the Secretary of State for India, which leave it to a body representative of the principal elements in India's national life—including the Indian States—to devise the frame-work of the new Constitution on the basis of a free and friendly agreement subject to the due fulfilment of the Treaty and other solemn obligations resting on His Majesty's Government. When the time comes, the Indian Princes shall not be found wanting, in any reasonable contribution, which they may be called upon to make for the discharge of their obligations to the Crown and towards the ordered progress of their States and their Motherland.

9. Your Excellency we are fully alive to our obligations as the inheritors of a great tradition of service and of an authority that has come down through long ages. We appreciate the necessity of taking all necessary measures to safeguard that priceless heritage, to continue to deserve the reverence of our subjects, and to strengthen and buttress the foundations upon which it rests. In our resolve, to do so, we have been further inspired by the magnificent example set up by Their Majesties the King-Emperor and the Queen-Empress, in the way in which they have identified themselves with the feelings, the anxiety and the sufferings of their peoples throughout the Empire.

10. It is obvious, that the conditions in different States vary, and that no exact pattern of administrative reforms or uniform pace of progress can reasonably be advocated for all the States. As Your Excellency has been pleased to acknowledge with your special knowledge of the affairs, in the course of your Opening Address to this Chamber last year, 'that many Rulers have of late made earnest endeavours to improve their administrative standards, that various admirable reforms have been introduced and that measures have in many cases been taken to ensure that all legitimate complaints on the part of State subjects receive due consideration'. The latest statement of the position, as revealed in the Chancellor's review of work today, is a proof, if proof be needed, that this important matter has received our continued and close attention.

11. Your Excellency has also referred in your Address to the suggestions made by you, in your previous addresses to the Chamber, that it is desirable for the smaller States w.th limited resources to co-operate and combine in matters of administration so far as it may be necessary and practicable. This question has been receiving our careful and active consideration from all the view-points involved; and relying on Your Excellency's respect for the traditions of the Indian States and for the pledges given to the States, both big and small, in the successive authoritative pronouncements guaranteeing their internal autonomy and integrity, we take it as understood that Your Excellency's suggestions are intended to encourage co-operation, on a voluntary basis having due regard to local conditions, in certain services of administration without impairing the integrity and sovereignty of the States concerned. In order to encourage co-operative grouping on the aforesaid lines, we regard it essential that the proposed combination should proceed on the free consent and the voluntary co-operation of the Rulers themselves, and that it shall not rigidly be limited to the geographical boundaries of a group in order that it may inspire mutual confidence and trust which alone can ensure its smooth working. On this basis, Your Excellency may rely on it that, we and our advisers will not be diverted by any considerations of a personal character from ensuring that where co-operation is necessary it shall take the form which no reasonable critic can

assail on the ground that it is half-hearted. At the same time, there should be no fetish for any rigidity of pattern in a matter of such importance, and where the States concerned put up any reasonable alternative schemes of efficient administration, or are prepared to co-operate with other important States, with adequate and efficient machinery in any branch of administration, such proposals may be sympathetically examined and as far as possible given a fair trial. We would also request that the promise made may be fully implemented so that the Chancellor in confidence, with regard to the various alternative schemes and suggestions under consideration, in order that necessary modifications, if any, may be suggested in time, which may make it possible for this Chamber to lend its good offices towards a satisfactory solution of this delicate problem. Your Excellency has been pleased to state that your suggestions regarding joint services have been welcomed by many Princes, and steps are being taken to adopt them in many parts of India with visible, though not as yet spectacular, results. Your Excellency would doubtless recognise that if the visible results have not been as spectacular as expected by Your Excellency, this has not been due to any deliberate indifference on the part of the Princes concerned. The preoccupations of the States with war work perforce have resulted in some of these problems not receiving the attention which they would have received in normal peace-time. Moreover, it will be recognised by all fair-minded persons that in the sphere of reform, prudence and farsight often enjoin, even on the most ardent reformer, the duty of paving due regard to local conditions and resources.

12. We share Your Excellency's confidence that the results of this meeting of the Chamber will be of real and lasting value to the Princes and their States, and will demonstrate to the world at this critical time how whole-heartedly and unflinchingly the Princes of India share the common determination of all those, who desire to see the present struggle pursued, with all the energies at our disposal, until victory has been achieved and the ideals for the preservation of which we are fighting secured beyond any question.

H. E. The Crown Representative: Before the Chamber adjourns today, Your Highnesses will allow me to bid you farewell until such time as we may meet again and to thank you very sincerely for the kindness to myself and to the unwearying support which you have given to this Chair from year to year when I have held it. I move that the Chamber be adjourned *sine die*.

Resolutions passed by the Chamber of Princes (Narendra Mandal) during the session held on the 17th and 18th March 1941.

Agendum No. 1.

Resolution of condolence by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar on the demise of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja of Mysore, the Maharaja of Kolhanur, the Maharao of Kotah, the Maharaja of Bijawar, and of the late Thakor Saheb of Rajkot, the late Trakor Saheb of Limbdi and the late Chief of Nandgaon.

Resolved.—“The Chamber of Princes records its heartfelt sorrow on the demise of Their late Highnesses the Maharaja of Mysore, the Maharaja

of Kolhapur, the Maharao of Kotah, the Maharaja of Bijawar, and of the late Thakor Saheb of Rajkot, the late Thakor Saheb of Limbdi and the late Chief of Nandgaon together with its sense of loss thereby sustained by the entire Order of the Princes and offers its sincere sympathies and condolences to the bereaved families."

Agendum No. 2.

Resolution of welcome by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanaagar to Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Mysore, the Maharao of Kotah, the Maharaja of Dhar and the Maharaja of Nabha, and to the Thakor Saheb of Rajkot, the Thakor Saheb of Limbdi and the Chief of Nandgaon.

Resolved.—“The Chamber of Princes offers its heartiest congratulations to Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Mysore, the Maharao of Kotah, and to the Thakor Saheb of Rajkot and the Thakor Saheb of Limbdi on their accession to the *Gaddi*, and to Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Dhar and the Maharaja of Nabha on their investiture with ruling powers and wishes them a long and prosperous life.”

Agendum No. 3.

Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanaagar welcoming the additional members recently admitted to the Chamber of Princes.

Resolved.—“The Chamber of Princes extends a cordial welcome to the Rulers recently admitted as members of the Chamber in their own right and confidently hopes that by continuing to take an active and constructive interest in the affairs of this Chamber and the ordered progress of their respective States, these members will prove a source of added strength to the Chamber of Princes.”

Agendum No. 4.

Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanaagar in regard to the amendments to the Regulations for the appointment of Representative Members.

Resolved.—“That this Chamber recommends (a) that in view of the recent admission of 26 new members to the Chamber of Princes in their own right the number of Representative Members may be reduced from 12 to 10 of whom four shall be elected by the Rulers of States specified in Part I of the Appendix to Regulation IV; two by the Rulers of States specified in Part II of the said Appendix; two by the Rulers of States specified in Part III of the said Appendix; one by the Rulers of States specified in Part IV of the said Appendix; and one by the Rulers of States in Part V of the said Appendix.

and (b) that the following States may be included in Part I of the Appendix to Regulation IV:—

Shahpura, Jambughoda, Malpur, Mansa, Mohanpur, Khirasra and Kurundwad (Junior)."

Agendum No. 5.

Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar on the shameless Nazi bombing of Buckingham Palace, and the great concern of the Indian Princes for the welfare of, and attachment to the persons of, Their Majesties.

Resolved.—“The Chamber of Princes records its deep sense of abhorrence of the callous Nazi violation of all international law and morality culminating in the shameless bombing of Buckingham Palace. The Chamber offers its devout gratefulness to Providence for His protection of Their Majesties the King-Emperor and the Queen, and desires that this devoted expression of the personal attachment of the Indian Princes to Their Majesties, and of the deep concern of the Princes for their welfare may be placed before Their Majesties.”

Agendum No. 6.

Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar on the War with particular reference to the inspiring stand of England against the brutal Nazi air raids, the heroic victories in the Middle East and Albania and the determination of the Indian Princes to continue their best efforts for the successful prosecution of the War.

Resolved.—“The Chamber of Princes records its heartiest gratification at the recent brilliant victories of the Imperial and Allied Forces in Africa and Albania and at the inspiring stand of England against the brutal Nazi air-raids and is proud to learn that the Indian troops have played such a magnificent part in these achievements. The Chamber requests His Excellency the Crown Representative to convey to His Majesty’s Government and particularly to that dauntless soldier-Statesman, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the sincerest congratulations of the Princes of India on these glorious victories which are regarded as a promising augury of final victory, for the eventual achievement of which the Indian Princes do reiterate their determination to continue to put forth their best efforts.”

Agendum No. 7.

Resolution by His Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar on the proposed amendments to the Reorganisation Scheme of the Chamber of Princes.

Resolved.—“That the Chamber of Princes recommends to His Excellency the Crown Representative that the following amendments may

be made in the First Regulations set out in the Appendix to the Constitution of this Chamber:—

1. In sub-clause (iii) of Regulation 1 in Part II of the said Regulations the words "The Maritime States of" may be inserted at the beginning of the said clause.
2. In sub-clause (iii) of Regulation 1 in Part V of the said Regulations the words "The Maritime States of" may be inserted at the beginning of the said clause.
3. The following proviso may be added at the end of Regulation 4 in Part II of the said Regulations, namely,

"Provided that any vacancy occurring on the Standing Committee will be filled by the Rulers concerned in accordance with the Regulations for ordinary elections."

4. The following additional sub-clause may be inserted at the end of Regulation 1 in Part V of the said Regulations as sub-clause (2), namely,

"A member appointed on the Committee of Ministers by a certain Ruler will be liable to be replaced by another member at the discretion of the Ruler concerned, and a member representing a group of States will be liable to be replaced if the majority of the Rulers of the group concerned or the Ruler who gave consent to the member concerned being originally included in the panel, give intimation of the desired change in writing to the Chancellor. In the latter case, the seat vacated shall be filled in accordance with the Regulations by the same Group which elected the member vacating the seat."

5. In sub-clause (a) of Regulation 2 in Part V of the said Regulations—

(i) the following words may be inserted between the words 'suggest' and 'names', namely:—

"to the Secretary of the Chamber of Princes";

(ii) the following words may be added at the end of this sub-clause, namely:—

"The list of the names proposed shall be forwarded within a week of the specified date to the Chancellor."

(iii) the following Note may be added at the end of this sub-clause as amended, namely:—

"In the case of a State under administration on account of minority or for any other reason the consent of the Government of the State concerned shall be treated as the consent of the Ruler for the purposes of this sub-clause but it shall be subject to revocation by the Ruler concerned on the termination of such administration."

6. The following proviso may be added at the end of Regulation 5 in Part V of the said Regulations, namely:—

“Provided that any vacancy occurring during the normal term of office of the Committee will be filled in accordance with the Regulations for ordinary elections by the same group which elected the member vacating the seat.”

7. For sub-clause (xi) of Regulation 1 in Parts II and V of the said Regulations, the following may be substituted, namely:—

“(xi) The remaining Eastern States with Manipur and Sikkim shall form a separate constituency returning three members.”

8. In Rule 2 of the Rules set out in Appendix A to the said Regulations the following words may be deleted, namely:—

“which shall also be signed and seconded by an other member of the Princes’ Standing Committee.”

9. In Rule 1 of the Rules set out in Appendix B to the said Regulations the following words may be inserted between the words ‘names,’ and ‘at’ namely:—

“to the Secretary of the Chamber”

and the following sentence added at the end of this Rule, namely:—

“The list of the names proposed shall be forwarded within a week of the specified date to the Chancellor”.

Agendum No. 8.

Resolution by H.s Highness the Maharaja Jam Saheb of Nawanagar, regarding association of the States with War activities at the Centre, particularly in the Sphere of Defence, Industries and Supply.

Resolved.—“That this Chamber recommends to His Excellency the Crown Representative that in order to further enhance the value of the war effort of the States and of India as a whole, necessary action may be taken with the least possible delay with a view to associate the representatives of the States with the war activities at the Centre, through reviving the proposal for the establishment of the War Advisory Council with representatives of the States and of the Provincial Governments or through some other suitable alternative to be evolved in consultation with the States.”

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